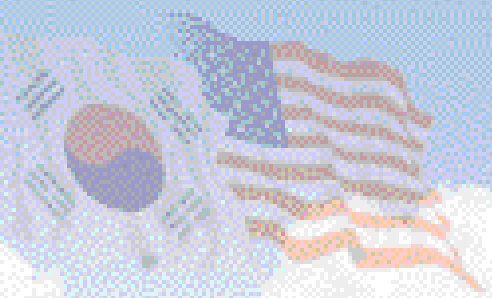
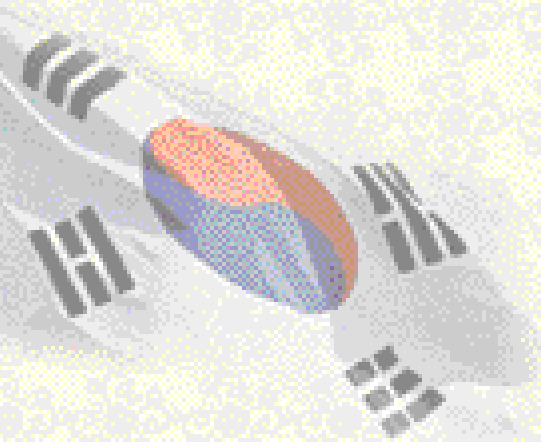
Revised Edition



ROK-US Alliance and USFK

Ministry of National Defense



"같이 갑시다"

LET'S GO TOGETHER

Foreword

For the past half century, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America have been fostering a staunch alliance, together sharing and defending the universal values of“ freedom ”and“ peace. ”

The dawn of the 21st century continues to witness a divided nation on the Korean Peninsula. At the same time, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and burgeoning transnational and asymmetrical threats, which culminated in the devastating acts of terror on September 11, are posing increasingly formidable global challenges.

Against this backdrop, the first and foremost task confronting Korea is the deterrence of war and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. Also of paramount significance is Korea ’s active participation in international efforts toward peace, which will redound to its elevated standing in the global community.

Recalling that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the ROK-US Mutual Defense Treaty, President Roh and President Bush have pledged on May 14, 2003, to work together to promote the values of democracy, human rights and market economy shared by the people of both nations and to build a comprehensive and dynamic alliance relationship for continued peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia. This reaffirms the determination of both leaders to uplift a relationship forged in blood during the Korean War into one which is better suited to meet the 21st century.

This booklet illustrates the half century-old-history of the ROK-US Alliance and also portrays the candid life of a USFK soldier. It also seeks to put various current issues into proper perspective. We hope it will serve to improve both Korean and American peoples and soldiers ’ understanding of the“ ROK-US Alliance and USFK. ”

June 2003

LTG **Cha, Young-koo**

Deputy Minister for Policy
Ministry of National Defense

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The“ Blood-forged ” Alliance

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2. The Crucial Han River Defense Line
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1 Sacrifice and Freedom: "Freedom is not Free."

"Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered their country's call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

-This phrase is engraved on a tablet of the "Korean War Veterans Memorial" in the National Mall, Washington D.C. -

ROK President Kim, Young-sam, US President Bill Clinton, and the representatives of the twenty-one nations who supported the UN Resolution opposing North Korea's aggression during the Korean War were present at the dedication ceremony of the Korea War Veterans Memorial on July 27, 1995. This ceremony, which took place 45 years after the breakout of the Korean War, provided the chance to think over the meaning of the Korean War and pay tribute to the soldiers who fought in the war. Also, the ceremony provided the opportunity to further enhance the ROK-US Alliance for the 21st century.

During the Korean War, there were 137,250 US casualties: 36,940 killed in action; 92,134 wounded; 3,737 missing in action; and 4,439 prisoners of war. Like the phrase "Freedom is not free," these numbers represent the great sacrifice made by those who fought to uphold freedom.

Despite this great loss, the Korean War had been forgotten by Americans for a long time. They themselves called it the "Forgotten War."

In 1989, President George Bush said that“ the Korean War has been underestimated and misunderstood.”This dedication ceremony helped the American people remember the Korean War.

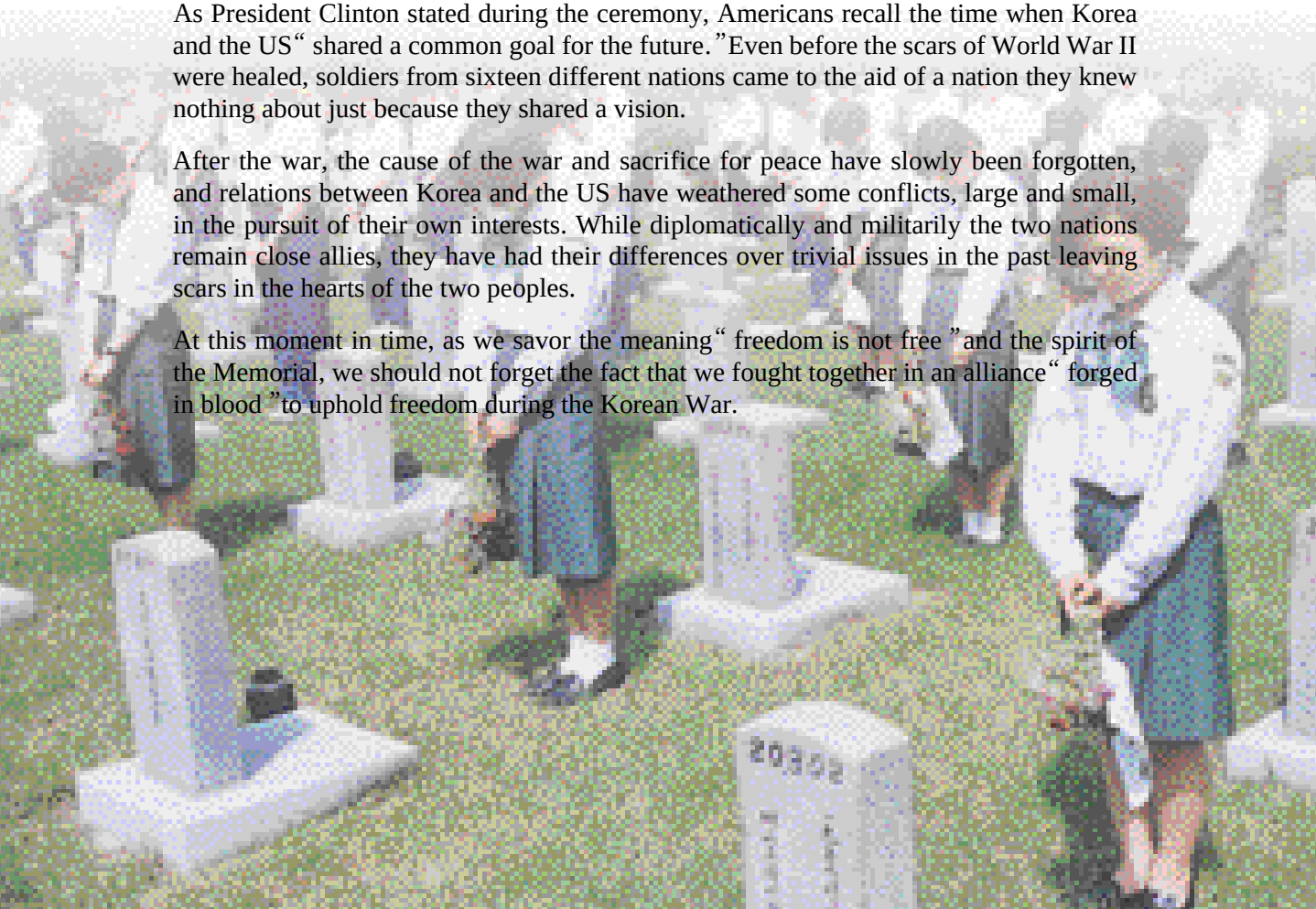
The nineteen statues, depicting marching soldiers in combat formation, in full gear and raincoats, represent the fighting spirit of the soldiers during the Korean War. Even though the war faded in memory, the American people s’ belief that their participation was just and unavoidable remains strong. We have not forgotten the fact that today s’ freedom and peace are the direct results of yesterday s’ sacrifice. The Memorial s’ depiction of soldiers wearing raincoats is a very familiar sight to the generation who fought in the Korean War. It helps us recollect what had long been forgotten.

Some 80 percent of the 180 million dollars needed to build the Memorial consisted of small donations in 10 and 50 dollar bills, which shows that the American people remember their commitment to the Korean War.

As President Clinton stated during the ceremony, Americans recall the time when Korea and the US“ shared a common goal for the future.”Even before the scars of World War II were healed, soldiers from sixteen different nations came to the aid of a nation they knew nothing about just because they shared a vision.

After the war, the cause of the war and sacrifice for peace have slowly been forgotten, and relations between Korea and the US have weathered some conflicts, large and small, in the pursuit of their own interests. While diplomatically and militarily the two nations remain close allies, they have had their differences over trivial issues in the past leaving scars in the hearts of the two peoples.

At this moment in time, as we savor the meaning“ freedom is not free ”and the spirit of the Memorial, we should not forget the fact that we fought together in an alliance“ forged in blood ”to uphold freedom during the Korean War.



2 The Crucial Han River Defense Line

June 25, 1950! On this day the greatest ordeal in history began for the Korean people and threatened the very existence of the two-year old Korean government.

At 0400 hours, with elaborate attack plans, North Korean forces consisting of a tank brigade, an independent infantry regiment, and ten infantry divisions launched surprise cross-border invasions of South Korea crossing the 38th Parallel. Despite our courageous efforts, Seoul was occupied by the enemy three days later, unable to surmount the absolute inferiority in military capability.

At 0200 hours, June 28, 1950, the leading units of North Korean forces entered the town of Miari and Seoul's northern defense line near Changdong started to collapse. At 0230 hours, ROK forces had no choice but to blow Han River Bridge in Seoul thus starting the Han River defense line operation.

On June 29, General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander-in-Chief of the US Far East Command(CINCFE), inspected the Han River defense line. He clearly realized the desperate situation and resolved to defend South Korea.

When General MacArthur flew to Suwon Airfield on June 29, aboard the Bataan, the US Air Force lacked air superiority over the Korean airspace. North Korean planes that had taken control over Gimpo and Yeoido Airfields frequently attacked Suwon Airfield in midst of inclement weather.

Even in these harsh conditions, General MacArthur did not hesitate landing at Suwon Airfield. Actually, the runway was attacked by North Korean "YAK" fighter planes. Two bombs exploded only some 100 meters from the plane, endangering both General MacArthur and President Rhee who was waiting to greet him.

General MacArthur and his staff climbed to high grounds to observe Mt. Namsan and the area across the Han River with his binoculars. After observing the area, General MacArthur suddenly walked towards a fire trench. In the trench, a private stood at attention.

There is an anecdote that General MacArthur, deeply moved by the private's courage and sense of mission, made up his mind to send US troops to the defense of Korea.

<Dialogue between General MacArthur and the private>

General MacArthur: How long are you going to stay in the trench?

ROK private : Sir! You are a soldier and I am a soldier. Soldiers take orders. I will not move from this trench until ordered otherwise by my superior.

General MacArthur: What will you do if there is no other order?

ROK private : Sir! I will stand my ground until death.

General MacArthur: Excellent! Are the others like you?

ROK private : Sir! Yes, Sir!

General MacArthur: That 's great! I 'd never thought I 'd meet a soldier like you here. Do you have a wish?

ROK private : Sir! We are fighting with our bare hands. Give us weapons and munitions so we can blow up enemy tanks and artillery.

General MacArthur: Anything else?

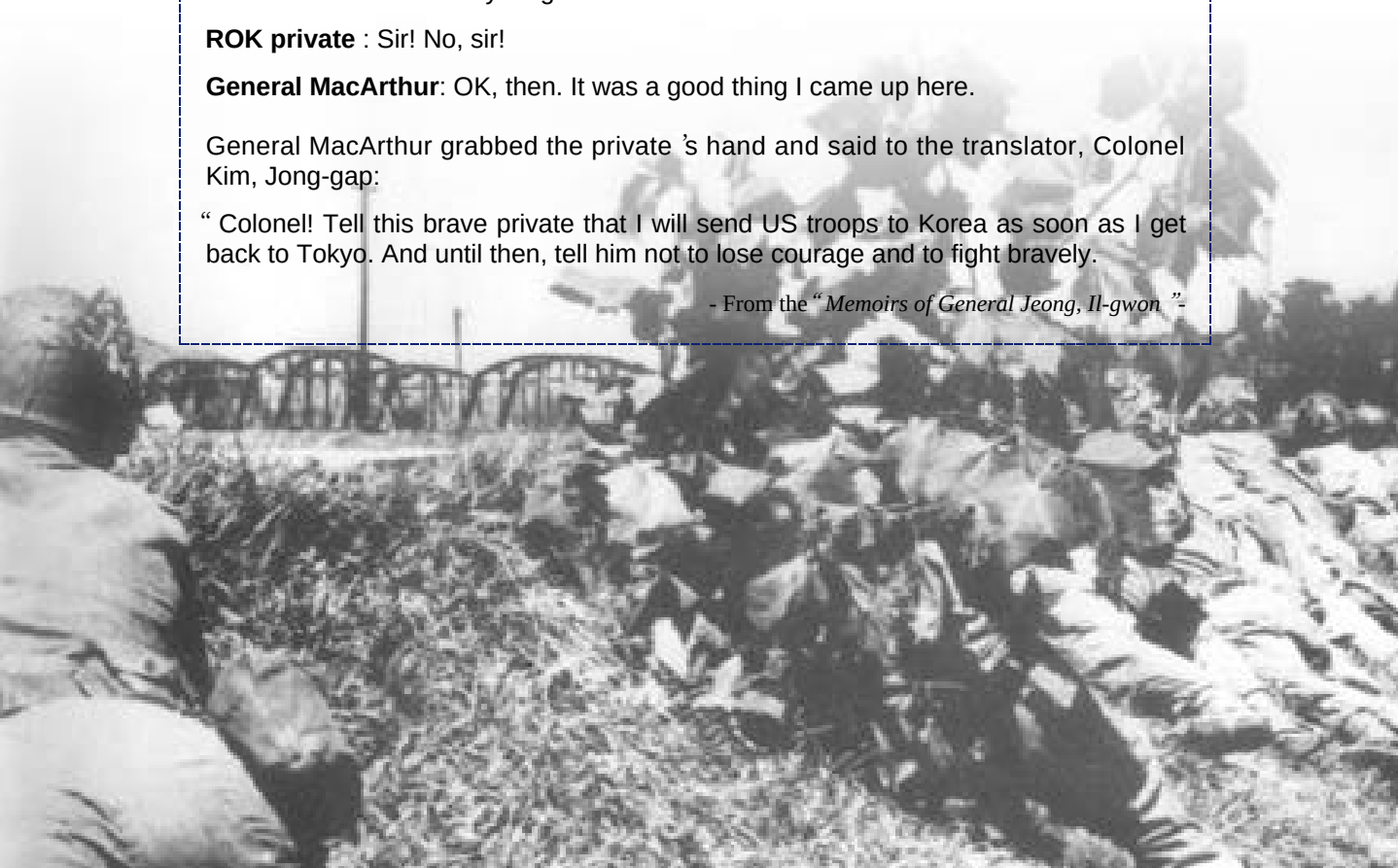
ROK private : Sir! No, sir!

General MacArthur: OK, then. It was a good thing I came up here.

General MacArthur grabbed the private 's hand and said to the translator, Colonel Kim, Jong-gap:

" Colonel! Tell this brave private that I will send US troops to Korea as soon as I get back to Tokyo. And until then, tell him not to lose courage and to fight bravely.

- From the *" Memoirs of General Jeong, Il-gwon "*-



3 Unexpected Defeat: "Task Force Smith"

On a rainy July 1, when the tide was turning against South Korea, a unit in North Kyushu, Japan swiftly mobilized. It was the first USFJ ground force mobilized in accordance with General MacArthur's promise. With Major General Dean looking on, this unit, composed of 406 soldiers selected from the US 24th Infantry Division, took off for Korea. This marked the start of US ground forces participation in the Korean War.

Task Force Smith--named after its commander, LTC Charles B. ("Brad") Smith--possessed great fire power for a battalion-level unit. Weapons included trench mortars, 75-mm recoilless rifles, and an artillery battery of six 105-mm guns. However, its anti-tank weapons consisted of only six 2.36-inch bazookas.

The 2.36-inch bazooka was not enough to destroy North Korean T-34 tanks, so the unit immediately requested the Army Headquarters in Yokohama to send 3.5-inch rocket launchers. The 3.5-inch rocket launcher was newly-developed by the US army

Task Force Smith arriving at Daejeon station on July 2, 1950

after World War II and thus had not been fully distributed to units outside the US. The small amount the Army Headquarters in Yokohama possessed were hurriedly airlifted to Task Force Smith on July 15, twelve days after the request. Because of this delay, Task Force Smith could not stop the North Korean tanks during the initial battle.

On July 4, while North Korean forces were near Suwon, Task Force Smith moved 90㎞ north from Daejeon to Jukmiryeong near Osan. Jukmiryeong was the farthest point north the US unit could be posted during those hectic days.

The first battle on July 5 was a tragic defeat for Task Force Smith. This defeat was significant to the US in many ways. Since the US military was considered to be the world's most formidable power, its defeat in the first battle to the communist forces was a shock to both the US and South Korea.

The defeat occurred for complex reasons, but of them two were crucial. The first was that LTC Smith and his men belittled the North Korean army, which they knew nothing about, as a third-rate army. The second reason was that the men were unprepared, following five soft years of occupation duty in Japan. Most of them were recruited after WW II and had no combat experience.

This defeat in the first battle shocked not only the US Far East Command, but also the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. The Far East Command in Tokyo requested immediate reinforcement.

Washington, along with Great Britain and France, asked for a meeting of the UN Security Council. Eventually, on July 7, a resolution was adopted by the Council, establishing the United Nations Command under the UN flag and empowering the US to designate the commander. Thus General MacArthur became the first UNC Commander-in-Chief.

The resolution passed the UN General Assembly by 52 to 7. 52 out of the 59 UN member states voted "yes." The seven "no" votes were from the communist states. The Free World strongly united to face North Korea's illegal invasion of South Korea.

Sixteen nations,including the US, dispatched combat units and five nations, including Sweden, dispatched medical units.

4 Failure of the Delaying Action: Daejeon Falls to North Korean Army

" Secure the withdrawal route with tanks! " -MG William Dean, 24th Infantry Division Commander

This was the last order MG William F. Dean gave to his division. MG Dean fought up front with his men to the last minute, setting an example for soldiers.

One can never overemphasize the military importance of Daejeon. It was key to the fate of the Geum River-Sobaek Mountains Line. Because of such importance, Daejeon had to be secured until July 20. Holding the line until that date was essential for reinforcements from US 1st Cavalry Division to reach Daejeon from Pohang.

MG Dean's division, freshly dispatched from Japan, had to withstand an attack by three elite enemy divisions.

MG Dean (middle) discussing the operation plan

Worsening conditions and longer battles took their toll on the outnumbered Americans. The North Korean Army surrounded the Americans on three sides, turning the battle into a street fight. In this combat, MG Dean himself fired a 3.5-inch rocket launcher towards enemy tanks. Despite orders to withdraw, MG Dean and his men fought to the last minute to defend Daejeon.

But the situation was beyond control, making it impossible to wait for the 1st Cavalry Division to arrive from Pohang. Eventually, MG Dean ordered the withdrawal of the 34th Regiment. Timing was crucial. If they did not withdraw immediately, the withdrawal route to Yeongdong could be cut off. " Secure the withdrawal route with tanks! "was MG Dean's final order.

After the fall of Daejeon and the scattered retreat of the 24th Infantry Division, MG Dean was missing in action. He was taken prisoner on August 25 in Jinan, North Jeolla Province, 36 days later. MG Dean was held a prisoner of war for three years until the prisoner exchange of September 4, 1953.

At the height of World War II, MG Dean had commanded the 44th Infantry Division from December 1944 to the end of the war. He fought in France, Germany and

Austria. In one year of fighting, only 42 men of the 44th Infantry Division became prisoners. This had brought MG Dean's greatest pride. He thought being a prisoner of war was a dishonor for a soldier. For a general with such belief to be captured demonstrates how desperate the situation was during the Korean War.

He also blamed himself for the shocking defeat at Jukmiryeong in which he mobilized Task Force Smith without any preparation, with almost no knowledge of the enemy. MG Dean was a leader who took responsibility and did not blame his subordinates.

MG Dean, actually, had many ties to Korea. He helped bring democracy to Korea as the Military Governor in the latter part of the United States Military Government in Korea (USMGIK). He was also the American general who perhaps best understood the South Korean military leadership's want of US military aid.

President Rhee welcoming MG Dean after his safe return

5 General Walker's Operation Order #1: "Stand or Die!"

On July 13, 1950, the Headquarters of the Eighth US Army moved from Yokohama, Japan to Daegu, Korea. Also on this day, President Syngman Rhee sent a letter assigning the command authority of all land, sea, and air forces of the Republic of Korea to General MacArthur. On that very day, General Walker received the UN flag and operational command.

As of July 13, reinforced troops from the US 24th and part of 25th Infantry Division added up to 18,000 troops. The US 1st Cavalry Division was expected to arrive on July 20. The situation was unfavorable with another week to wait. The operation plan to pass this critical moment was to withdraw the UN forces all the way back to the Sobaek Mountains.

The plan called for: (1) the main forces of the UN and ROK withdraw and form a new defense line along Daejeon-Sobaek Mountains; (2) the US 24th Infantry Division continues to defend Daejeon; (3) ROK forces move from the Charyeong Mountains to the Sobaek Mountains to deploy the II Corps; and (4) strengthening defense in depth of the Sobaek Mountains with part of the US 24th Infantry Division.

Based on these plans, General Walton H. Walker, Commander of the UN Ground Forces, issued Operation Order #1, and his famous "stand or die" speech at the Nakdong Perimeter gave a strong message of determination to his soldiers.

"Stand or Die!" reflects the critical situation of the time and also implies the Korean people's death-defying spirit to defend the motherland.

During World War II, under General George S. Patton's Third Army, General Walker commanded the XX Corps. He was a brave and positive strategist with the nickname "Walker Bulldog." In Europe, with his "Ghost Corps" he earned fame as an attack operation specialist and displayed these talents to the fullest during the Korean War.

During the Korean War, General Walker took command of the Eighth US Army on July 13, 1950. His success during the defensive operation along the Nakdong River was a stepping stone for the success of the landing operations at Incheon. His strategic skills also played a key role in capturing Pyongyang and forcing the enemy to the Korea-Chinese border.

Tragically, General Walker was killed in a car accident on December 23, 1950, while on his way to see a medal award ceremony for his son, Captain Sam Walker. General Walker was sixty years old.

In honor of General Walker, the US Army named the M-41 light tank the " Walker Bulldog," and the newly-built US Army resort and hotel in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul, was named" Walker Hill."

6 The Final Line of Defense: The Nakdong Perimeter

" I intend to leave a historical mark here along the Nakdong Perimeter, not just as a defense line where we stopped the communists, but as a starting point in the history of democratic power destroying the communist forces. "

- General MacArthur, from the *"Memoirs of General Jeong, Il-gwon "*-

On July 27, 1950, General MacArthur flew to Daegu without notice. The above statement was made by General MacArthur after receiving a situation briefing, where he presented for the first time plans for the Landing Operations at Incheon.

The situation had worsened after July 20. The fall of Daejeon, the core of the Seoul-Busan axis, was a crucial loss and the ROK Army 's inland battles had seen little results.

As anticipated, General Walker decided to " concentrate all forces at the Nakdong River and start the decisive defense. " The Nakdong River literally became the " final line of defense, " with no more ground to fall back on. The fate of Korea was to be determined here, making the Nakdong Perimeter " the final line for survival. "

Allied forces consisted of five ROK divisions and three EUSA divisions. These eight divisions had to cover a total frontline of 240㎞. Thus a division had to cover 30 ㎞, twice the usual length of 15㎞ for a division.

The North Korean Army also faced difficulties from its stretching supply route and especially from the increasing losses of equipment and men as a result of fierce battles. Meanwhile, ROK and UN forces gained the time needed for reinforcements to arrive and for an all-out counteroffensive. General Walker 's " stand or die " spirit spread among the allies and boosted the morale.

The intense battles along the Nakdong River continued. For 45 days, up until September 15, 1950, the Nakdong Perimeter that included the famous bloody battlefields

of Dabudong and Yeongcheon was a fierce boiling pot. It was a critical moment where the Republic of Korea's fate stood at crossroads.

In order to break the defense line, North Korean forces used vicious methods such as placing refugees in the front, but ROK and UN forces defended the Nakdong Perimeter in an unshaken spirit of "stand or die."

General J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff of the US Army, wanted to see the Dabudong battlefield after hearing of the allied victory on August 23, 1950. This was not a typical proposal. A high-ranking US military official usually visited an American battlefield first, but General Collins wanted to pay his respects to the ROK soldiers on their victory at Dabudong.

Friends and foes were mingled in fighting. The Dabudong battlefront was in a chaotic state. Artillery shells flew all over. Despite the danger, General Collins visited the battlefield to encourage the ROK soldiers.

On his way to the Dabudong battlefield, General Collins' party came under fire. Twenty North Korean 120-mm heavy mortar shells exploded near them. The General's party quickly took cover and avoided damages, but it was a life threatening moment.

The visit to the Dabudong battlefield by the US Army Chief of Staff, notwithstanding the dangerous conditions, showed ROK soldiers the determination of US military leaders to win the war. This gave the frontline soldiers renewed confidence and reassurance.

Another purpose of General Collins' troop inspection at the battlefield, which took place 20 days before the landing operations at Incheon, was to see whether the Nakdong Perimeter could be held until the Incheon landings. The answer was "no problem."

7 Victory of Conviction: Landing Operations at Incheon

" The amphibious landing is the most powerful tool we have. Perhaps I have more confidence in the Navy than the Navy has in itself. I realize that Incheon is a 5,000-to-1 gamble, but I am used to such gambles. We shall land at Incheon and I shall crush them.

-General MacArthur (August 23, 1950, Tokyo)-

September 15, 1950. This is the day " Operation Chromite," the code name for the Incheon Landing Operations, became a reality. While the battles along the Nakdong Perimeter were still fierce, the event that turned the tides of the Korean War took place at Incheon.

It is widely known that the US Joint Chiefs of Staff strongly opposed the Landing Operations at Incheon because of the location 's poor conditions. Washington, on the other hand, did not oppose the landing operation itself. A landing operation was needed but" not at Incheon! "

However, General MacArthur stressed that the poor conditions at Incheon would make the North Korean Army least cautious of an attack there and thus the higher the chances of success in a surprise attack.

On September 9, 1950, 6 days before D-Day, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff finally approved General MacArthur's plan and asked for the President Truman's sanction. General MacArthur's conviction was put into action.

Landing Operations at Incheon! The plan, which reversed the defensive battle to offensive, was a success in all aspects including timing, method, cost and effect. Using unfavorable conditions to our advantage in a surprise attack, this operation was a complete success, cutting off enemy lines of communication and withdrawal, and seizing the initiative of the war. This operation was surprisingly quick and cost minimal losses to personnel and equipment.

"Operation completed. Enemy resistance minimal. 45 prisoners taken. No KIAs."

At 0627 hours with a "Let's go!" sign, the first eight landing ships of the advance party took off ashore. At 0800 hours, the first signs of a successful landing were clear. The plan of a great strategist was becoming a reality. The news of the success of the Landing Operations at Incheon reached President Truman who, on behalf of the American people, thanked General MacArthur and his troops. British Prime Minister Churchill praised that the operation had demonstrated the "essence of a strategy that earns time for the counteroffensive."

The success of the Incheon Landing Operations made it possible for the allies to recapture Seoul at an earlier time. On September 28, the sounds of gunfire dimmed away towards the north as the Republic of Korea's flag, the Taegeukgi, was raised high over Capitol Hall by Park, Jeong-mo's platoon of the ROK Marine Corps 6th Company. Under a glorious autumn sky, sounds of church bells and cheers by people were heard everywhere. It was 89 days since the citizens of Seoul last saw the Taegeukgi.

At the ceremony for the recapturing the capital the next day, General MacArthur expressed this historical moment with the following words:

"Our UN forces, which symbolize the greatest hope and determination of the human race, were lead by God's mercy in recovering Seoul, the old capital of Korea. Seoul is now free from the brutal communist oppression. Citizens are rejoicing in their recovered freedom and dignity, and are living with a strong determination to never lose it again."

- From the *"Memoirs of General Jeong, Il-gwon"*-

8 The ROK-US Race to Pyongyang

How can one express the feelings of a General who fled to the south as a boy and now is leading a unit of 15,000 soldiers, Korean and American, in the march to take back his hometown? This was the best day of my life. Taegeukgi 's were raised high in the villages we passed. "

- From the memoirs of General Paik, Sun-yup," The Army and I "-

On October 19, 1950, the ROK 1st Infantry Division led by General Paik, Sun-yup became the first of the UN forces to enter Pyongyang. With the complete success of the Landing Operations at Incheon, the UN forces fighting for their life at the Nakdong Perimeter began their counteroffensive throughout the front. On October 1, ROK 3rd Infantry Division had crossed the 38th Parallel, opening the gateway north to allow the ROK 1st Infantry Division to take Pyongyang.

Actually, the ROK 1st Infantry Division was not designated from the start to capture Pyongyang. The initial operation order was given to the US 1st Cavalry Division, the

Division Commander Paik reporting the operational situation to the US I Corps Commander, MG Milburn.

main attack unit, to move north along the Seoul-Uijeongbu corridor, while the US 24th Division was to be the right wing, reaching Pyongyang via Guhwa-ri, Sibyeon-ri, Singye and Suan. The British 27th Brigade was to follow the Cavalry Division as a reserve, while the ROK 1st Infantry Division was supposed to pass Gaeseong, Yeonan and Haeju and attack toward Anak, clearing the rear end.

Even though the US had operational command, General Paik regarded an offensive on the enemy Capital without ROK participation to be meaningless. General Paik thus strongly requested to the Corps Commander, MG Frank W. ("Shrimp") Milburn that the ROK participate in the offensive. MG Milburn asked in return the number of vehicles in a ROK division, a roundabout way of asking about the 1st Infantry Division's "mobility." At that time, the 1st Infantry Division had around 60~70 vehicles while a US division possessed hundreds.

General Paik, Sun-yup persistently persuaded MG Milburn, who wanted to capture Pyongyang as soon as possible using US superiority in mobility and firepower. General Paik recollects his feelings during the time:

> "I could not give up because I had to redeem the honor of those who went through a bitter retreat and those who sacrificed their lives since the Battle of the Imjin River. Also, after coming down south as a refugee, I became a General. I had to do my part in recovering my hometown."
>
> -From the memoirs of General Paik, Sun-yup, "The Army and I"-

General Paik told MG Milburn, "we don't have many vehicles but we are determined to march day and night." This strong determination convinced MG Milburn to place the ROK 1st Division at the forefront.

This started a friendly competition between the mainly infantry ROK 1st Infantry Division and the highly mobile US 1st Cavalry Division to capture Pyongyang. However, mobility could not be attained just by strong determination. While General Paik was contemplating this problem, Colonel Henning, Commander of the US 10th Anti-aircraft Artillery Group, who was supporting the ROK 1st Infantry Division, advised General Paik to use a plan known as the "Patton Tactic," which aligns infantry, tanks, artillery, engineering and airplanes in a line and attacks the center. The only problem was that the ROK 1st Infantry Division did not have any tanks.

At that time, the US was reluctant to give ROK units tanks. The US never provided tanks separated from US infantrymen. The reason was that Korea had no any experience in infantry-tank combined exercises, where the safety of the tank could not be assured. However, General Paik asked for tank support from MG Milburn, and finally 1 tank company(the US 6th Tank Battalion Company "C", with 21 M-46 "Patton" tanks) was placed under the ROK 1st Infantry Division. Spirits soared among the Korean soldiers.

Finally, the march commenced with General Paik commanding in the lead tank. LTC Hazlett, KMAG senior advisor, opposed this plan. His point was that if the commander took the lead, he would become an easy target, jeopardizing his own life and the lives of his men. However, in addition to General Paik's will to recover his homeland, General Paik saw the difficulties in a ROK-US combined effort, such as language barriers, level of training, and differences in ways of thinking. To lessen these difficulties, General Paik insisted on taking the lead.

The ROK 1st Infantry Division, using an infantry-tank-artillery combined operation, which was the latest at the time, swiftly marched north with dignity. The slogan for the ROK became "We are marching forward" with the US replying "We go." It was a moving sight to see ROK and US soldiers spiritually united.

At 1100 hours, October 19, 1950, the ROK 1st Division arrived at Seongyo-ri Rotary in front of the Daedong Bridge, the point designated to meet the US 1st Cavalry Division. Around 40 minutes later, the 1st Cavalry Division's advance party arrived.

The distance from Gorangpo on the 38th Parallel to Pyongyang was 170㎞. This meant that the ROK 1st Infantry Division marched 25㎞ per day. This pace was faster than the German armored forces' invasion of Stalingrad during World War II well known for its swiftness. The ROK 1st Infantry Division soldiers, alternately marching and riding day and night, won the friendly race with the US 1st Cavalry Division, which had a history of reaching the targeted destination first in Manila and Tokyo during the Pacific War.

President Rhee encouraging Pyongyang citizens at the Pyongyang Recapture Ceremony

9 Withdrawal from the Jangjin Reservoir: "Attack in Another Direction"

"US 1st Marine Division: 718 KIA, 98 deaths after evacuation, 192 MIA, 3,504 wounded from combat, 3,659 non-combat casualties (mainly frostbite)"

"Chinese People's Volunteers: 2,500 KIA, 12,500 wounded"

These are the casualty numbers of the so-called "Battle of Chosin Reservoir" from November 27 to December 11, 1950. The US 1st Marine Division stationed at the Jangjin Reservoir withdrew under the heavy attack from seven Chinese Divisions. The Battle of Chosin Reservoir took place through the "Yudamri-Deokdongryung-Hagaluri-Gotori" passage also known as "Death Valley," with Chinese forces setting up two to three iron rings around the US division.

▶▶ *The Americans call the battle at the Jangjin Reservoir the "Battle of Chosin Reservoir" because the map at that time was made by the Japanese. (the Japanese pronunciation of "Jangjin" was "Chosin")*

The Jangjin Reservoir is a mountainous terrain located 1,000m above sea level on the Gaema Plateau. The temperature fell to -20 degrees Celsius during the day and -32 degrees Celsius during the night. Because of the vicious weather, many weapons became useless,

and more than half of the soldiers on both sides suffered from frostbite due to the lack of cold weather clothing.

Despite these infernal conditions, the US 1st Marine Division, under the leadership of General Oliver P. Smith, did not just withdraw but performed "an attack in another direction." The operation was a success and they were able to withdraw to Hamheung.

This operation delayed the Chinese entering the Hamheung area for two weeks. This bought the time needed for the ROK and UN forces who were marching northeast to regroup in the Heungnam area. The Heungnam withdrawal operation that followed also became a success. Above all, the Chinese Communist Forces 9th Army Group could not participate in the Third Offensive because of the casualties it suffered from this battle. Thus the Third Offensive came to a halt near Suwon due to a lack of rear support. On the other hand, the operation provided the ROK and UN forces the foundation for a counteroffensive, thus enabling the allies to take control of the war.

▶▶ *'The "Heungnam Withdrawal" refers to the southward withdrawal of 100,000 soldiers and 100,000 civilians including the US 1st Marine Division from Heungnam port on 193 military ships from December 4 through 24.*

The nightmares of the Jangjin Reservoir still haunt the war veterans who survived the atrocity. In April 1983, the survivors of this battle formed an organization with 6,000 members called the "Chosin Few," meaning only a few survived the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

The "Chosin Few" has 52 branches all around the world and deals with POW issues and frostbite cures. Also, it is campaigning for funds to build a museum and is working on a project to revisit Korea.

Some members wrote a book to tell future generations what happened during the battle. Memoirs include Martin Roth's "Breakout," George Owen's "Colder than Hell." Novels include James Brady's "The Marines of Autumn" and others. On the internet site introducing these books, many comments have been made by members and families of the "Chosin Few." Some have written, "I sat up all night reading the book with tears running down my face."

Never shall we forget the cost of freedom. We should be grateful for those who fell in the biting blizzard of Jangjin and to the members of the "Chosin Few" who live with the memories of the terrible losses. Throughout the years, they have seen and admired the remarkable development of a country they had fought to defend.

10 Signing of the Armistice Agreement: "The Unfinished War"

"Not in all my military career have I signed something with such reluctancy and dishonor."

This was General Mark W. Clark's remark after signing the Armistice Agreement as the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command.

July 27, 1953! This was the day the Armistice Agreement was signed, ending the three-year-long Korean War. This Agreement was an "incomplete agreement" because it did not bring permanent peace but a new form of confrontation, conflict and possibly another war. This was why General Clark thought of this Agreement as a dishonor.

In 1983, thirty years after the armistice, General Clark recalled the past on a "Voice of America" broadcast.

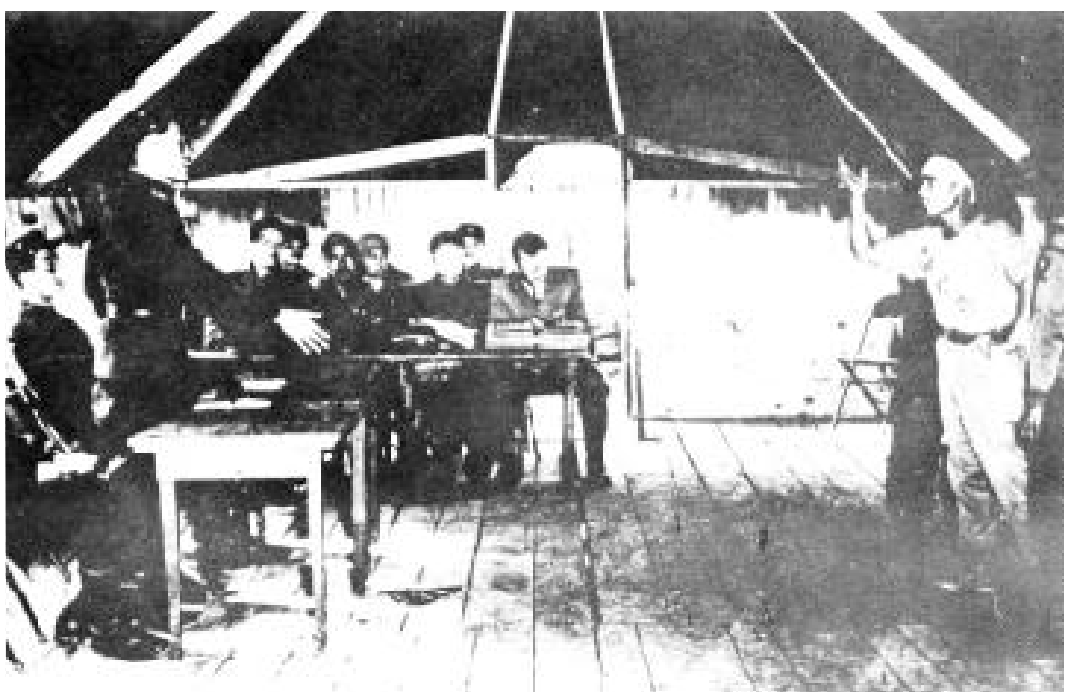
"Even though the UN forces had victory in its grasp, Washington was hesitant about dispatching reinforcements and bombing Manchuria because some Americans and some member nations of the UN desired an armistice. This resulted in an unsettled armistice."

The Korean government and media were seriously against the armistice. On June 23, 1951, the USSR Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Malik, proposed armistice talks through his "price for peace" speech which the US and China accepted two days later. The armistice talks took two years. An agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, despite the unstable situation of a war not completely over in regard to international law.

The Armistice Agreement brought an end to actual combat, but the state of division and confrontation were the same as before the war. Even though the strong defense of the ROK Army and the support and participation of the free world defeated the North Korean

communist forces, a new Military Demarcation Line replaced the 38th Parallel. The state of division and threat remain even today.

Despite the limitations of the Armistice Agreement, no one can deny that the Korean War preserved the freedom and legitimacy of the Republic of Korea. The Korean people's sense of security which originated from the Korean War provided the mental and material support for establishing the strong security readiness posture of today and also laid the foundation for a strong ROK-US combined defense posture.



An anti-communist prisoner, refusing to go back to the North

11 " Noblesse Oblige "

" I am sure that all parents feel the same way as I do. Ours sons were serving and doing their duties to our country. As God said long ago, there is no greater love than giving one's life for a friend. "

-From Paul F. Braim 's" The Will to Win: The Life of General James A. Van Fleet"

On April 4, 1952, 1st Lieutenant Jimmy Van Fleet, son of General James A. Van Fleet, Commander of the Eighth US Army, disappeared during a mission on a B-29 bomber over the northern area of the Korean peninsula. On Easter, 1952, General Van Fleet sent the above message to all parents whose sons were missing in action.

During 3 years 1 month and 2 days of combat, the total number of US casualties were 137,250. There were 142 soldiers in the Korean War whose fathers were US generals. Thirty-five of them (25 percent) were either killed in action or wounded.

John Eisenhower, the President's son; Sam Walker, son of the Eighth US Army Commander General Walker; and Vin Clark, son of UN Supreme Commander General Clark all fought at the front.

First Marine Aircraft Wing Commander, Major General Field Harris was supporting the Jangjin Reservoir withdrawal operation with air power. His son Major Harris, Commander of the 1st Marine Division 7th Regiment 3rd Battalion, died in that very battlefield during the operation at Hagalwu-ri.

General Van Fleet! A war hero, who witnessed the war-stricken 20th Century as a field commander, who fought in the forefront of the Korean War for two years as the Commander of the Eighth US Army, lost his only son at the battlefields of Korea.

His leadership was not disturbed through his son's death, even refusing his staff's proposal of sending out one hundred

fighter jets in search of his son ṡ body, because he wanted to stay focused on winning the battle.

General Van Fleet demonstrated a strong sense of mission and will, especially in trying to win battles regardless of their importance or size. COL(R) Paul F. Braim, who fought in Korea as a company commander, wrote a biography of General Van Fleet: "The Will to Win."

Among General Van Fleet ṡ achievements were the contributions he made in establishing the mighty ROK Army of today by training and educating the Korean soldiers who, at the time of the Korean War were little prepared. On assuming command of the Eighth Army, he took it upon himself to train the ROK divisions in turns for nine weeks while fighting battles with his own small-sized unit.

His plan to expand the number of ROK divisions to twenty faced heavy opposition from the US, but he persuaded President Eisenhower in 1952 and carried out the plan. President Eisenhower and General Van Fleet were West Point classmates.

The need for a training institute for officers became an issue in the ROK Army ṡ expansion to twenty divisions. General Van Fleet played a crucial role in the establishment of the Korea Military Academy, modeled after West Point. After his retirement, he showed continuing interest by starting a fund raising campaign to build a library for the Korea Military Academy.

Today, a statue of General Van Fleet stands at the Korea Military Academy with the following phrase by Lee, Eun-sang engraved on it.

" This statue is erected in appreciation of the soldiers of the United States of America, who are true friends of the Korean people and apostles of world peace. Born in Coytesville, New Jersey, March 19, 1892, General Van Fleet rendered distinguished services commanding the EUSA in 1951 to defeat the communist invasion. His feats were of international significance. General Van Fleet held a deep interest in Korea ṡ welfare, giving his entire efforts and knowledge to revitalizing the civil sector. His love for humanity and undying spirit will live unto the next generations, and his accomplishments in both war and peace decorate the pages of world history. "

12 The Forgotten War: "Lest We Forget"

"Forgotten war, forgotten victory"

In the US, the Korean War is considered the "Forgotten War." It is a shame to call a war "forgotten" when 1,750,000 soldiers participated and 37,000 Americans were killed.

After World War II, the American people were tired of war and the US government did not want the people to focus on the Korean War. President Truman was not confident that the American people would accept more casualties in a distant unknown land.

The US government advertised the Korean War as a "conflict" or an American "police action." Because the US did not officially declare war, the Korean War veterans were not qualified for organizations such as the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Organization.

But, the Korean War was not a forgotten war. The Korean War was the first major confrontation between the free world and the communists in which the democracy of Korea was upheld. Through the Korean War, the spread of communism in Asia was stopped and the foundation for democracy laid. The Americans later remembered these facts and started to call the Korean War the "Forgotten Victory."

Since 1979, the US have been celebrating "National POW/MIA Recognition Day." On this day, the US shows its appreciation for the POWs of World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Operation Desert Storm. There are nearly 50,000 American former POWs alive, who were held captive during these wars. Through this event, the US re-emphasizes its will to bring MIAs back home, including the ones in Korea.

On July 27, 2001, 48 years after the Armistice Agreement, President Bush proclaimed the day as the "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day" and expressed his gratitude to those who fought in Korea. He asked the American people to pay tribute by raising the flag at half-mast. It was proclaimed after the US Congress had designated July 27, 2001 as the "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day" and had authorized the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day."

“ Lest we forget ”

The US government has made special efforts to recover the remains of those Americans who gave their lives for the honor of their country and world peace.

“ Lest we forget! ”is the motto of the Defense POW-MIA Office, Department of Defense. “ Not to be forgotten! ”is the catch phrase of the US Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii(CILHI) which identifies each and every set of remains that are recovered. The phrase“ Not to be forgotten ”shows the determination of the US to find all the remains of American soldiers scattered all around the world.

The US has also made efforts to recover US remains from North Korean soil. Since 1985, the US and North Korea have held talks regarding the repatriation of US remains. On August 24, 1993, the United Nations Command and North Korea signed the“ Agreement on Remains-Related Matters.”The repatriation of US remains from North Korea began in May 1990, and as of 2001, a total of 360 sets of remains have been returned.

The history of US recovery of remains goes way back. The US first established a remains recovery unit 150 years ago. Since then, the US has relentlessly sought US remains in every part of the world. This unit which conducts investigation, recovery, and identification operations is composed of 169 specialists with state-of-the-art equipment.

In the US, the President and all the people pay their utmost respects to the remains that are brought back home. This is the kind of power that has made the US what it is today.

When will the recovery operation end? The answer is simple:

“ Until we find the last one ”

The ROK-US Security Alliance

1. Signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty
2. Growth of ROK Armed Forces and US Contributions
3. Korea's Self-Reliant Defense Policy and Adjustment of Roles between the Korea and US
4. Korea s̀ Contribution to the World Peace
5. Core Partners of the 21st Century: Korea and United States

1 Signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty

Background to the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty

The diplomatic efforts of President Rhee led to the Armistice Agreement which has served as the foundation for the ROK-US Alliance, and the bedrock supporting the growth of democracy and prosperity in Korea.

In the spring of 1953, UN Forces and the North Korean military were negotiating for an armistice, despite the Korean people's desire for reunification and protests against an armistice. At that time, with the Soviet Union and China expanding their influence in East Asia, signing the armistice would only lead to another invasion by North Korea upon withdrawal of UN Forces.

President Rhee realized that the conclusion of an armistice agreement was inevitable and sent a letter to President Eisenhower. The letter requested the ROK and US to sign a Mutual Defense Treaty equivalent to the existing treaties the US had with the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand, once an armistice agreement was reached. It also asked for economic aid to rebuild Korea.

However, ROK/US negotiations saw little progress, and President Rhee's plot seemed unviable. He risked trouble with his UN allies by setting free 27,388"anti-communist POWs"from prison camps in Busan, Daegu, Gwangju, Nonsan, Masan, Yeoncheon, and Bupyeong on June 18, 1953. Releasing anti-communist POWs was a demonstration of President Rhee's resolve against any armistice negotiations that ignored the aspiration of the Korean people.

After receiving the confirmation that the anti-communists had successfully escaped, President Rhee made the following announcement:

> "In the spirit of the Geneva Convention and human rights, anti-communist Korean POWs should have been freed long ago... They have been unfairly detained for too long because of complicated international politics. There was a concern that the UN's negotiations with North Korea would complicate the international relationship even further, in favor of North Korea, and cause misunderstanding among the Korean people. That is why I ordered the release of anti-communist Korean POWs under my responsibility."

By freeing the anti-communist POWs, President Rhee had shown that Korea could act on its own regarding Korean Peninsula issues. President Rhee knew that continuing the war would cause more suffering to the Korean people, but he also believed that an armistice, without a complete end of war would mean even greater suffering to prepare for another war. This is why he could not agree to an armistice treaty without any guarantee for the future of Korea. He continuously opposed an armistice until the US promised a mutual defense treaty and military aid after the war. The release of anti-communist POWs was a measure taken in this context.

The US government, shocked by the release of anti-communist prisoners by the ROK government, concluded that it would not be possible to sign and implement the armistice without Korean government's consent. It sent Special Envoy Robertson to negotiate with the Korean government. The four major issues for President Rhee during the negotiations were as follows:

1. A Mutual Defense Treaty to guarantee Korea's security
2. Long-term economic aid to rebuild Korea
3. Force improvements for the ROK military(Army expansion to 20 divisions, equipment support for Navy and Air Force)
4. If the negotiations with the communists made no progress after 90 days, ROK and US will discuss plans for reunification on their own

The US government made commitments on President Rhee's requests and the Korean government agreed. On August 4, 1953, Secretary of State Dulles visited Korea to make final coordination on the draft made by President Rhee and Special Envoy Robertson.

The "ROK-US Mutual Defense Treaty" was initialled on August 7, 1953, and officially signed on October 1. The Treaty took effect from November 18, 1954 after ratification by the Korean National Assembly and the US Congress.

The "ROK-US Mutual Defense Treaty" was realized mainly owing to President Rhee's diplomatic efforts out of concern for the security of the ROK and the US government's favorable response to President Rhee's intiative. The Mutual Defense Treaty still stands as the pillar of the ROK's security and national strategy.

The Significance of the Mutual Defense Treaty

On October 1, 1953, an alliance was built on the common interests of peace and freedom when the " Mutual Defense Treaty " was signed. This was signed 71 years after the "Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation" between the Chosun Dynasty and the US of May 22, 1882, and 82 years after the USS General Sherman incident of 1871.

By establishing the treaty, the US was now in position to defend Korea. The Mutual Defense Treaty is an institutional guarantee for the USFK to be stationed in Korea to deter another war in the Korean peninsula, and a legal ground for the combined defense. It also serves as the foundation for other affiliated security arrangements and military agreements between the ROK and US governments and militaries.

Exchange of Ratified Mutual Defense Treaty (December 8, 1954)

Mutual Defense Treaty between the Republic of Korea and the United States of Americ

Signed at Washington: October 1, 1953
Entered into Force: November 17, 1954
The Parties to this Treaty,
Reaffirming their desire to live in peace with all governments, and desiring to strengthen the fabric of peace in the Pacific area,
Desiring to declare publicly and formally their common determination to defend themselves against external armed attack so that no potential aggressor could be under the illusion that either of them stands alone in the Pacific area,
Desiring further to strengthen their efforts for collective defense for the preservation of peace and security pending the development of a more comprehensive and effective system of regional security in the Pacific area,
Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
The Parties undertake to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, or obligations assumed by any Party towards the United Nations.

Article 2
The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of either of them, the political independence or security of either of the Parties is threatened by external armed attack. Separately and jointly, by self-help and mutual aid, the Parties will maintain and develop appropriate means to deter armed attack and will take suitable measures in consultation and agreement to implement this Treaty and to further its purposes.

Article 3
Each Party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific area on either of the Parties in territories now under their respective administrative control, or hereafter recognized by one of the Parties as lawfully brought under the administrative control of the other, would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes.

Article 4
The Republic of Korea grants, and the United States of America accepts, the right to dispose United States land, air and sea forces in and about the territory of the Republic of Korea as determined by mutual agreement.

Article 5
This Treaty shall be ratified by the United States of America and the Republic of Korea in accordance with their respective constitutional processes and will come into force when instruments of ratification thereof have been exchanged by them at Washington.

Article 6
This Treaty shall remain in force indefinitely. Either party may terminate it one year after notice has been given to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed this Treaty.

Done in duplicate at Washington, in the Korean and English languages, this first day of October, 1953.

For the Republic of Korea:	For the United States of America:
(signed) Y.T. Pyun	**(signed) John Foster Dulles**

Understanding of the United States of America

It is the understanding of the United States that neither party is obligated, under Article 3 of the above Treaty, to come to the aid of the other except in case of an external armed attack against such party; nor shall anything in the present Treaty be construed as requiring the United States to give assistance to Korea except in the event of an armed attack against territory which has been recognized by the United States or lawfully brought under the administrative control of the Republic of Korea.

2 Growth of the ROK Armed Forces and US Contributions

Contribution to the Foundation and Expansion of the ROK Armed Forces

Just after the establishment of the Korean government on August 24, 1948, the US government concluded the " Executive Agreement between the President of the Republic of Korea and the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in Korea, Concerning Interim Military and Security Matters during the Transitional Period "with the Korean government and provided weapons and equipment, as well as training for the Korean military. The size of military aid provided in accordance with the US" Surplus Property Act, "was equipment for 50,000 Army personnel and spare parts for six months, amounting to $56 million in value.

Based on the Mutual Defense Assistance Act(MDAA) of October 1949, the US provided equipment and training which were $15 million in value. Through such support, the Korean military grew from 100,000 to 600,000 troops after three years of war.

The US continued its military assistance in accordance with the" Agreed Minutes and Amendment thereto between the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States of America Relating to Continued Cooperation in Economic and Military Matters and Amendment to the Agreed Minute of November 17, 1954. " From 1950 to 1988, the US provided free military aid to Korea, which included the Military Aid Program(MAP) of $5.47 billion and the International Military Education Training(IMET) of $170 million. Military aid that were compensated included Foreign Military Sales(FMS) of $5.05 billion, commercial sales of $1.43 billion, and FMS loans of $2.35 billion.

The US supported military education and training of Korean officers during the founding stage of the Korean military. US support and finance were crucial in establishing the Military English School, Chosun Guards Training Camp, Border Guard Unit, and Korea Military Academy in January 1952, amidst the fierce fighting of the Korean War.

Furthermore, the development of the ROK-US Alliance contributed immensely in modernizing the ROK military. ROK-US combined exercises such as UFL and RSOI provide the ROK military the chance to acquire state-of-the-art military technology.

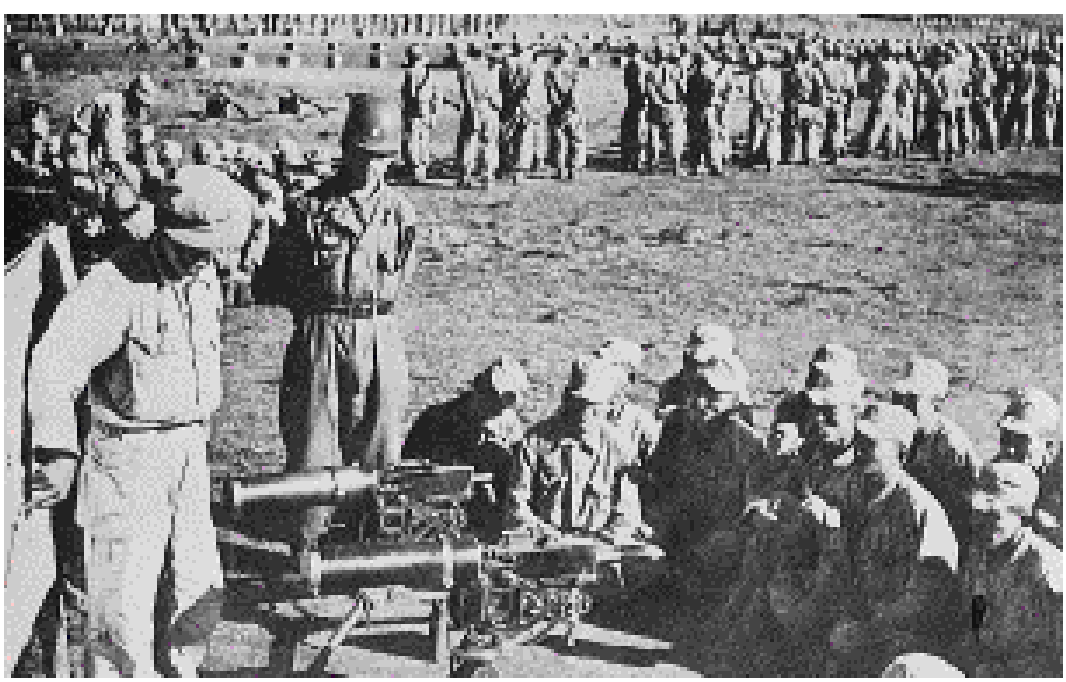
Contribution to Security Cost Savings and Economic Development

In the economic perspective, the ROK-US Alliance reduces the security expenses for the ROK, which facilitates continuous and steadfast economic growth.

For example, US reserve stocks of ammunition, the War Reserve Stocks for Allies (WRSA) consists of 60 percent of the ammunition needed during wartime. In monetary terms, it would equal $4 billion, which amounts to the ROK military training budget for 30 years.

Also, a stable security environment rooted in the ROK-US Alliance gives foreign investors and trade partners confidence in Korea. In particular, this contributed in overcoming the financial crisis of 1997. Aware of such security partnership, Defense Secretary Cohen persuaded his colleagues in other US government departments to rally in favour of a package from the International Monetary Fund to support Korea.

Therefore, the strong ROK-US security alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America also plays a major role in the development of the Korean economy.



3 Korea's Self-Reliant Defense Policy and Adjustment of Roles between the Korea and US

In the late 1960s, criticism, both domestic and foreign, against the US for its longstanding participation in Vietnam intensified. Excessive expenditure triggered economic difficulties. Inflation mounted and the value of the dollar fell. To tackle the issue and prevent similar difficulties in the future, the Nixon Doctrine was declared on July 25, 1969. It stated that, if a conventional war should break out in Asia, the primary responsibility for defense lies with the countries directly involved and that the US will provide its support on a selective and restrictive basis.

As a result, the decision was made to pull out a total of 42,000 troops stationed in Asia by June 1971. The US 7th Infantry Division withdrew from the Korean Peninsula in 1971.

In response to such changes, President Park Chung-hee, in the 1971 New Year's address, recognized the criticality of the withdrawal to national security and announced that Korea would build advanced armed forces; strengthen homeland reserves; foster a viable domestic defense industry; restructure the military; improve the mobilization system; and acquire modern weapons. President Park especially emphasized the need for a self-reliant national defense structure to prepare for the reduction of US troops on the peninsula.

Before 1971, Korea's utmost priority was to build a solid economy. However, after 1971, equal weight was given to building a self-reliant defense structure. From 1974, the Korean government launched its first Force Improvement Plan under the project name of "Yulgok." In 1975, a new defense tax law was introduced to secure the funds for the plan. Additionally, the United States provided $1.5 billion from 1971 until 1977 for the "ROK Armed Forces Modernization Plan."

By the 1980s, modern national defense management concept were being introduced. Organization and procedures were being systemized. ROK Armed Forces were growing, with the "Koreanization of Korean defense" in a smooth progress. Domestically, the ROK set up the "8.18 plan," aimed at developing its national defense posture. In the ROK-US relations, this resulted in the "change of the USFK role."

With the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, the US Congress considered reducing its defense budget and making adjustments to the size of its forces. Congress adopted the Nunn-Warner Amendment, concerning US troops in the Asia-Pacific including the USFK. In 1990, the US DoD announced the "East Asia Strategy Initiative(EASI)."

According to the EASI, the forward deployment strategy for East Asia and the Pacific will be maintained while undergoing a 10~12 percent reduction in US forces. Reductions will come mainly from the Army and the Air Force. As for Korea, the USFK would be reduced step-by-step and its role gradually changed from a leading role to a supporting role. By 1996, the ROK would be playing the leading role in its defense. EASI also called for Korea's increased participation in the burden-sharing programs.

As the first step, 7,000 personnel mainly from headquarter's structure pulled out of Korea in 1992. As for the change in the USFK's role, a Korean general was appointed as the Senior Member of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission(UNCMAC) in March 1991, the ROK-US Combined Field Army(CFA) was deactivated in July 1992, and a Korean four-star general was appointed as Commander of the Ground Component Command in December 1992. In 1994, peacetime operational control was handed over to the ROK.

At the 34th ROK-US Security Consultative Meeting held in December 2002, the ROK Defense Minister and the US Defense Secretary agreed to hold joint discussions on the "Future of the ROK-US Alliance Policy Initiative," and thereby explore directions toward which the ROK-US Alliance should evolve, such as expanding the role of the ROK Armed Forces in defending the Korean peninsula. Moreover, on May 14, 2003, President Roh and President Bush reaffirmed the US commitment to a robust forward presence on the peninsula and in the Asia · Pacific region, and agreed to work closely to modernize the ROK-US Alliance.

4 Korea's Contribution to the World Peace

The ROK-US Alliance was formed during the Korean War in 1950. At first, the US provided unilateral assistance to Korea. As time passed, the alliance evolved into a mutually beneficial relationship. Fifty years into the alliance, Korea and the US share a truly mature bilateral partnership. During President Bush's visit to Korea in February of 2002, the two countries agreed to strengthen the alliance into a "global partnership." This implies that the ROK-US Alliance, based on the Mutual Defense Treaty, will develop into an active cooperative relationship on global issues such as terrorist threats and WMDs.

Korea's Participation in "Operation Desert Storm"

Operation Desert Storm is the name of the military campaign launched to counter Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The operation began on January 17 and lasted until February 28, 1991. It was a case in which a friend of the US had been attacked, and thirty-three US-led allied nations including the US, UK, France, and Korea joined for a counterattack.

Since the ROK was an ally of the US, it was obligated to support the Gulf War. Korea played its role as a member of the allied forces by providing financial support of $500 million, and sending two hundred military medical personnel and five C-130 cargo planes.

Korea contributed to saving innocent lives and restoring peace in the Middle East. ROK's participation secured our position in the post-war new World Order and reaffirmed the friendship and cooperation between the ROK and the US.

Korea's Participation in Peace-Keeping Operations(PKO)

Peace-keeping operations(PKO) refer to United Nations-led initiatives to peacefully resolve conflicts by helping maintain peace and stability or restore order in the region.

The ROK Armed Forces is an active member in such efforts. Korea is participating through the "Standby Arrangements System" notified to the UN. The Standby Arrangement System was established after considering diverse factors to include national interest, the safety of ROK personnel, the security situation and public support.

As a beneficiary of the UN's support during the Korean War, it is Korea's duty to reciprocate what we have received through participating in various peace-keeping operations. Additionally, since the US is the main contributor behind the PKO activities, it is natural that Korea participates in PKO activities as its ally.

In 1993, the ROK Armed Forces sent an engineering unit to the PKF headquarters in Somalia(UNOSOM-II). Up to now, 3,700 ROK servicemen and women have been sent to six regions including East Timor, Angola, and Western Sahara. As of February 2002, 475 Korean men and women serve in five regional conflicts, working to bring peace. This is the 28th largest contingent.

Korea's Participation in "Operation Enduring Freedom"

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, the United States launched "Operation Enduring Freedom" on October 7, 2001 to bring down the al-Qaeda network and the Taliban regime. Many countries condemned such acts of terrorism and participated in the war against it. To contribute to world peace and support the US-led war against terrorism, Korea is taking part in this operation.

Korea has provided not only diplomatic and financial support but also military support. In December 2001, Air Force and Navy airlift fleet groups were dispatched. In February 2002, the Army dispatched a medical support unit.

Korea's participation in "Operation Iraqi Freedom"

On March 20, 2003, the international community led by the US launched "Operation Iraqi Freedom" to disarm Iraq, which affiliated terrorism and the proliferation of WMDs, and to drive out Saddam Hussein and his regime.

During a speech to the National Assembly on April 2, President Roh, Moo-hyun emphasized the importance of the ROK-US alliance and declared his support for the coalition forces in Iraq, following a decision to dispatch ROK forces to Iraq. Accordingly, the ROK Armed Forces dispatched a construction engineering group and a medical support group consisting of 675 personnel to provide humanitarian support for post-war reconstruction and relief efforts.

5 Core Partners of the 21st Century: Korea and United States

" The stability of this Peninsula is built on the great alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States. All of Asia, including North Korea, knows that America will stand firmly with our South Korean allies. We will sustain our obligations with honor. Our forces and our alliance are strong, and this strength is the foundation of peace on the Peninsula. "

-From President Bush 's remarks at Dorasan Station (February 20, 2002)-

The security policy of the US towards the Korean Peninsula is based on the strong ROK-US Alliance and the combined deterrence strategy. The forward deployed USFK is in the center of this stategy. Through this strategy the US deters North Korean military provocation and acts as a regional balancer.

Strategic Assessment 1998: Engaging Power for Peace, published by the US National Defense University in 1998, values the strategic importance of Korea. This report classified the world into four sectors in relation to US national interests, i.e., assurance of economic prosperity and protection of democratic values.

The four sectors are: (1) Core Partners, (2) Transition States (most states are in this group and has the potential of being a core partner), (3) Rogue States/Nonstates (States that pose a potential threat to the US), and (4) Failing States (States that need humanitarian support due to civil war and other forms of war).

In the 2002 Annual Report to the President and the Congress, the US classified Korea, along with Japan and Australia, as the Core Partners in the Asia-Pacific. The US regards the Republic of Korea as an important partner in maintaining and promoting market economies and democratic values, while sharing the responsibility for the world peace.

Peace-keeping, peace-making and working toward unification all are parts of the roles of the ROK-US Alliance and the USFK.

USFK, the embodiment of the ROK-US security alliance, prevents recurrence of war on the peninsula together with the ROK Armed Forces. USFK also plays the role of a strategic " stabilizer " and " balancer " in Northeast Asia. The ROK and the US maintain close coordination in their North Korea policies, thus strongly supporting improved South-North relations.

During the summit meeting on May 14, 2003, President Roh and President Bush honored the 50th anniversary of the ROK-US Alliance and have pledged to build a comprehensive and dynamic alliance relationship for continued peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

Considering the geopolitical location of Korea, unforeseen threats after unification, the dynamics of the surrounding great powers, and the conflicting interests of land and sea powers, the importance of the ROK-US security alliance will be even greater in the future.

The ROK-US Combined Defense Posture

1. The ROK-US Combined Forces Command: " The Guardians of the Peace "
2. Intelligence Capability: Ever Vigilant, Ever Ready
3. Readiness Posture of the USFK
4. The Formidable Augmentation: Time-Phased Forces Deployment Data(TPFDD)
5. Combined Exercises:" Ensuring Deterrence "
6. Logistics Support: " Providing Lasting War-fighting Capabilities "

1 The ROK-US Combined Forces Command: "The Guardians of the Peace"

The Combined Forces Command(CFC) is the symbol of the ROK-US Alliance and the backbone of the combined defense.

As the defense capability of Korea improved over the years, the ROK and the US both realized the necessity of establishing a combined forces command. On October 15, 1968, the combined staff planning group was established within the EUSA and in 1971, as the US 7th Infantry Division withdrew from Korea, the ROK-US I Corps was established.

In January, 1977, President Jimmy Carter announced that he will withdraw the US 2nd Infantry Division from Korea. The ROK and US began serious talks to combine the operational command system in order to effectively enhance the defense capability of Korea in relation to the withdrawal of the US ground forces.

President Park presenting the ROK-US Combined Forces Command Flag

At the 10th ROK-US Security Consultative Meeting(SCM) in 1977, Defense Minister Seo, Jong-cheol and Defense Secretary Brown agreed to establish the Combined Forces Command. At the 11th SCM, agreement was reached on the structure and function of the CFC.

On November 7, 1978, the ROK-US Combined Forces Command(CFC) was established in Yongsan, based on the agreed "Terms of Reference for the Military Committee and ROK-US Combined Forces Command" and the "Strategic Directive #1."

With the establishment of the CFC, the responsibility of defending Korea was passed

on to the CFC from the United Nations Command(UNC). The UNC was left with the responsibilities of maintaining the Armistice Agreement. With regard to maintaining and managing the Armistice Agreement, the Commander-in-Chief of the CFC was to take orders from the Commander-in-Chief of the UNC, thus establishing a mutually supportive and cooperative relationship.

The operational control held by the Commander, UNC, based on the " Agreement relating to Jurisdiction over Criminal Offences committed by the United States Forces in Korea between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America," commonly referred to as the" Daejeon Agreement," was passed on to the Commander, CFC. It was an important moment in the ROK-US military relations.

The CFC performs its functions through the" Military Committee "based on a command system in which it receives operational guidelines and strategic directives from the National Command and Military Authorities(NCMA) of both nations.

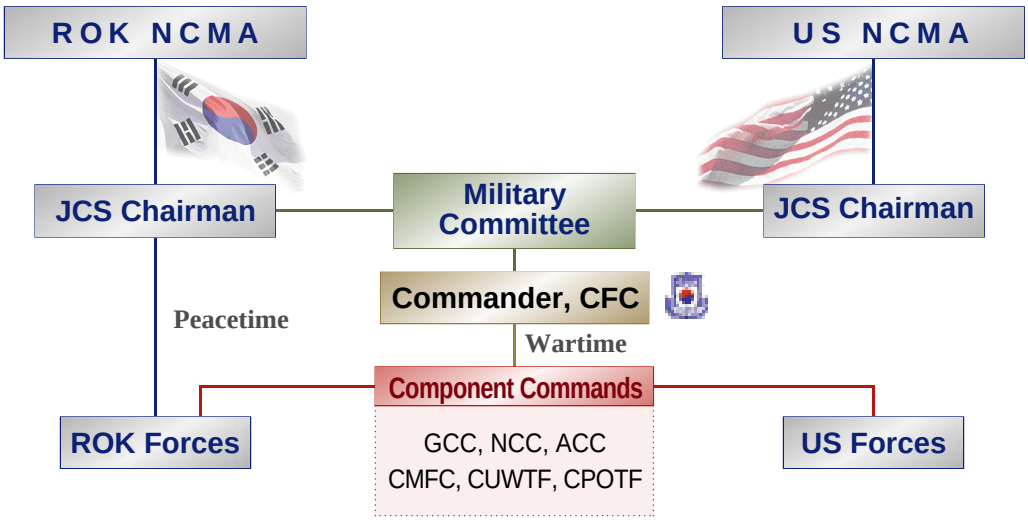
The organization and composition of the CFC follows an equal assignment principle. The Commander-in-Chief is a US four-star general and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief is a ROK four-star general. Chief of Staff is assigned to a US Lieutenant General. All branches and offices are organized in a way that if the chief is Korean, its deputy is American, and vice versa.

The missions of Commander, CFC are deterring war on the Korean peninsula during peacetime in close cooperation with the ROK JCS, and preparing to defend Korea by developing plans for war with the ROK-US combined forces.

All former Commanders, CFC were proud that the ROK-US combined defense posture was the strongest combined forces in the world and always emphasized this to US dignitaries when they visited Korea.

As long as the North Korean threat exists, the ROK-US combined defense will remain the most effective tool of deterrence on the Korean peninsula.

Command System of the ROK-US Combined Forces Command



" It is worth noting that on 7 November 1978 that the United Nations Command was replaced by the Combined Forces Command as the major war fighting command and it is truly a combined command headed by a U.S. four-star general and a ROK Deputy Four Star. The UNC is still an essential command and will continue to be important now and during reunification if that event comes to pass.

Things change and will continue to change. Politics and national interest will continue to test the alliance. One thing that hasn't changed much is the unpredictability of North Korea. Thus stability in Korea and in Northeast Asia will require the presence of U.S. Forces for some time to come.

US presence in Korea supports current and foreseeable future US, ROK, and Japan national security strategies. US presence in Northeast Asia assures regional stability for the ROK before and during reunification if that event occurs.

- Former Commander, CFC, General(R) William J. Livsey

ROK Armed Forces' Operational Control

On July 17, 1950, in the heights of the Korean War, the "operational command" over the ROK Armed Forces was transferred to the Commander, UNC. In his letter to General MacArthur, President Syngman Rhee said that the operational command over the ROK Armed Forces would be assigned to the Commander, UNC, "during the period of the continuation of the present state of hostilities."

The assigned "operational command" was replaced by "operational control" in the ROK-US Mutual Defense Treaty effective as of November 17, 1954, and the revised "Agreed Minutes" thereafter. Since the establishment of the CFC in November 1978, the operational control was exercised by the Commander, CFC. Peacetime operational control was returned to the ROK Armed Forces on December 1, 1994. Thus, the ROK Armed Forces were made to independently exercise operational control in peacetime.

Security environment changed in the post-Cold War era in the late 80's and early 90's. Domestically, as its national strength grew, the ROK became mindful of the "Koreanization of Korean defense." The ROK standpoint was that the defense plan for Korea had to consider not only countering the NK threat, but also meeting the long-term requirements of the future. On the other hand, the US had freshly adopted the "Nunn-Warner Amendment", the essence of which was to maintain the existing mutual security relations and forward deployment strategy, but to change the role of the USFK from a leading to a supporting role. The ROK and US consulted with such background, and as a result, peacetime operational control was returned to the ROK Armed Forces.

The ROK and US closely coordinated with each other in the process. The ROK, with the peacetime operational control newly at its hands, established an independent operation and command system. However, the two countries devised sufficient measures so that the combined defense posture for wartime would not be in any way undermined.

Commander, CFC still holds authority over issues directly related to war fighting such as establishment and development of wartime operation plan, planning and execution of combined exercises, and combined intelligence management for early warning. This is to secure war deterrence in peacetime and war fighting capability once deterrence fails.

2 Intelligence Capability: Ever Vigilant, Ever Ready

Today's war can be described as intelligence warfare. As we have witnessed in the Gulf War, Yugoslavia, and in Iraq, in the operation system of "detect → decide → strike → assess," intelligence superiority is the determinative factor of victory. Accordingly, intelligence force of the USFK is a barometer of the level of our security.

To deter war on the Korean Peninsula, we need to watch everyday movements of NK forces and maintain surveillance over NK's intent of a surprise incursion. Even should deterrence fail, early warning will minimize the impact of the surprise attack. In addition, we need to monitor areas hundreds of kilometers away from the frontline to link it with real-time strike forces and swiftly destroy key enemy targets.

Intelligence Assets and Operation System

US intelligence assets and operation system provide such capabilities. US reconnaissance satellites that monitor the Korean Peninsula 24 hours a day, U-2 aircraft that conduct reconnaissance missions at maximum heights of 80,000 feet, and other advanced intelligence aircraft and various ground equipment provide intelligence to the Korean Combat Operations Intelligence Center(KCOIC) and the Combined Analysis Control Center(CACC) where they conduct real-time analysis on the movements of NK forces with state-of-the-art equipment.

Such intelligence capabilities of the US forces are the key element of deterrence, and provide the capability to swiftly repel enemy attack with minimum casualty in contingencies. In particular, NK's awareness of such intelligence forces itself has a deterrence effect.

The ROK Armed Forces have endeavored to acquire and enhance its intelligence collection and management system during the past ten years. However, considering the current economic status of the ROK, it would be hard to expect an independent and complete eye on the enemy.

For example, it costs 1 million dollars per mission for the U-2 reconnaissance aircraft. Considering the fact that the US operates an overlapping reconnaissance and surveillance system manned for 24 hours a day, the total sum of such operation is astronomical.

WATCHCON

Watch Condition(WATCHCON), an intelligence surveillance posture in monitoring NK military activities, is composed of five levels.

WATCHCON V is a normal situation without any unusual military movements.

WATCHCON IV is a normal situation with a potential threat, where continued surveillance is required.

WATCHCON III is issued when there is concern for an increased threat against the national security. When issued, duties of the intelligence personnel are strengthened and enemy situation/movements are closely monitored. In October 1992, WATCHCON IV was escalated to III after NK cut off talks with the South and proclaimed state of quasi-wartime.

WATCHCON II is issued when there are signs of eminent danger and significant threat to the national interest. When issued, a variety of surveillance and analysis activities are conducted using intelligence satellites, reconnaissance aircraft, electronic signals, etc. WATCHCON II was issued in February 1982, when NK IL-28 bombers were forward deployed and Air Force exercises commenced in all regions of North Korea. On April 5, 1996, when North Korea sent armed forces into the Panmunjom area, in an attempt to nullify the Armistice Agreement, WATCHCON had been escalated from III to II.

WATCHCON I is issued when there is clear and immediate threat that the enemy will initiate an attack. It has not been issued to date.

ROK Armed Forces and USFK maintain WATCHCON IV in normal circumstances, but as the situation grows worse, the WATCHCON levels are escalated. The level goes up when agreed between the intelligence authorities of the ROK and US. As the levels are raised, intelligence collection and the intelligence personnel are reinforced.

3 Readiness Posture of the USFK

The US forces in Korea are armed with hi-tech equipment, capable of leading the new forms of warfare in the 21st century.

With the 2nd Infantry Division and two aviation brigades as the main axis of force structure, the EUSA possesses 140 M1 tanks, 170 Bradley armored vehicles, 30 155-mm self-propelled artillery, 30 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems(MLRS), ground-to-air missiles including the Patriot, ground-to-ground guided missiles, and 70 all-weather AH-64" Apache "helicopters.

In particular, the self-propelled artillery "Paladin" of the 2nd Infantry Division, and large-caliber MLRS with computerized fire control system are linked with detection system, enabling an immediate detection of enemy's position after the initial attack. With such weapons, it is possible to destroy the NK artillery at an early stage, which poses the greatest threat.

The "Patriot" is a missile system that intercepts aircraft and ballistic missiles, and was first deployed in 1983. In 1991, during the Gulf War, the Patriot displayed 70% accuracy in performance, and since then, the US has been improving its accuracy and expanding its detection range. A US Patriot Battalion has been deployed to South Korea in 1994. In a breakout of crisis, additional Patriots will be deployed on call.

In the Gulf War, the all-weather AH-64 "Apache" helicopters destroyed more than 1,000 tanks, 10 aircraft, 12 helicopters, and 65 Iraqi encampments. The AH-64 that the USFK possesses are upgraded models.

The US Air Force in Korea operates about 100 aircraft in total, with 70 F-16s and 20 A-10s. These forces provide 30 percent of the combined air force capabilities.

A single A-10 can destroy 16 tanks, which means that a single A-10 squadron can destroy a maximum of 280 tanks.

DEFCON

Defense Readiness Condition(DEFCON) is issued to all units according to the analysis of " WATCHCON," and is composed of 5 levels: FADE OUT (V), DOUBLE TAKE (IV), ROUND HOUSE (III), FAST PACE (II), and COCKED PISTOL (I).

DEFCON V is a peacetime situation without any military tension.

DEFCON IV is a situation where military precaution is required owing to small-scale tension. This has been the actual status of the Korean Peninsula since the armistice in 1953.

DEFCON III is a situation when there is a presence of tension that may cause serious and disadvantageous effects, or when there is the possibility of military intervention. When issued, all servicemembers are on alert, ready for action. Vacations are forbidden.

DEFCON II is a situation when there are signs that the enemy is strengthening readiness posture to launch an attack, or when military tensions have escalated, not to the utmost level but to a high level, and a strengthened readiness posture is required. At this level, mobilization order is issued, ammunitions are given out to individuals, and unit personnel are 100 percent supplemented.

DEFCON I is a situation when there exists signs of major tactics and tactical hostile activity, and when war is imminent. This is the highest level of readiness posture requiring preparations to execute the war plan. Normally, at this level, the authorities proclaim martial law and state of war.

▶▶ Issuances of DEFCON III and II

On August 18, 1976, NK forces slaughtered two US officers, CPT Bonifas and 1LT Barrett of the UNC, and wounded many other ROK and US personnel with axes while they were trimming a poplar tree within the JSA, Panmunjom.

Right after the incident, the UNC issued DEFCON III, and the US dispatched a bomber squadron from Okinanwa to the ROK, and deployed three aircraft carriers, the Enterprise, Laser, and Midway in the Korean waters.

On August 21, at 0700 hours, the UNC issued DEFCON II, and to demonstrate its strong will, chopped down the poplar tree. Panic stricken from such a strong response from the ROK and US, NK sent a" message of apology "- the first ever and never after - to Commander, UNC, General Stillwell, written by the Supreme Commander of the Korean People 's Army. The escalating situation thus was settled.

4 The Formidable Augmentation: Time-Phased Forces Deployment Data(TPFDD)

Supporting UNC and CFC's wartime operation plan, the ROK-US Combined Forces Command(CFC) has made a plan regarding the US augmentation that come to the Korean Peninsula in an outbreak of a crisis.

If the USFK acts as an initial defense role in an outbreak of war, US augmentation forces play the decisive role in bringing victory to a war.

US augmentation forces are to be deployed within the framework of US forces' strategic maneuver. Strategic maneuver refers to transportation between theaters. It means being able to transport troops and equipment anywhere around the globe. Some of its main components include air transportation, ship transportation, and the prior deployment of equipment and war enduring material to expected areas of crisis.

There are three types of US augmentations. First is the Flexible Deterrence Option (FDO). FDO, a war deterring measure consisting of political, economic, diplomatic, and military measures, is implemented when the risk of war or crisis is escalated. FDO is composed of 150 items including surveillance and reconnaissance forces.

Second is the Force Module Package(FMP). FMP is executed when war deterrence through FDO has failed. It is a plan to reinforce major combat and support units that are considered crucial in the early stages of war such as a carrier battle group.

Third is the Time-Phased Forces Deployment Data(TPFDD) which prepares for the actual outbreak of war. It includes the forces of FDO and FMP. These forces are divided into four groups: "In-place" forces that are already present in the Korean Peninsula; "Pre-planned" forces that are to be deployed time-phased; "On-call" forces that come additionally on call; and "Off-Peninsula" forces from outside the peninsula.

The US augmentation forces include: forces that strike the enemy's robust artillery in the early stage of war; a number of carrier battle groups carrying state-of-the-art aircraft capable of conducting three-dimensional maritime warfare; air forces that attain air superiority, provide air defense and strike enemy targets; and forces countering the weapons of mass destruction(WMD).

We can confirm the US's commitment to the defense of the Korean Peninsula from its full-scale plan to commit over 40 percent of its Navy, over 50 percent of the Air Force, and over 70 percent of the Marines to a crisis in Korea.

What is the strength of a Carrier Battle Group?

An Aircraft Carrier carries over 80 bombers, fighters and electronic warfare aircraft (which matches the USFK's fighter numbers!). Other elements of the fleet include destroyers, nuclear powered submarines, auxiliary ships, high-tech intelligence ship "Aegis" and other ships with different functions. A Carrier Battle Group has a maneuver range of 150 kilometers. Taking account of its early warning, command and control, and electronic warfare aircraft, its actual reach extends several hundred kilometers.

US Pacific Command

The US Pacific Command(PACOM) is geographically the world's largest combined forces command: covering an area beginning from the east coast of Africa, stretching to the west coast of the US and both South and North Poles.

USPACOM consists of four Component Commands(US Army Forces Pacific, US Pacific Fleet, US Pacific Air Forces, Marine Forces Pacific) and four Subordinate Unified Commands(US Forces Korea, US Forces Japan, Alaskan Command, Special Operations Command Pacific). Total number of its forces is 304 thousand, which is 20 percent of the total US force.

"Ready Today and Preparing for Tomorrow," USPACOM keeps its readiness vigil, aiming to deter invasion within the Asia-Pacific region and to achieve early victory through expeditious response should war break out.

USPACOM supports stability on the Korean Peninsula. During peacetime, USPACOM supports exercises related to the peninsula and during wartime, supports the ROK-US CFC with forces and logistics. The Command also works to strengthen military cooperation, supporting exchanges of intelligence, logistics, operation and defense officials.

5 Combined Exercises: "Ensuring Deterrence"

ROK and US forces conduct many combined exercises and training such as Ulchi-Focus Lens(UFL); Reception, Staging, Onward Movement &Integration(RSOI); and Foal Eagle(FE) to review the feasibility of the ROK-US combined operation plans and strengthen readiness.

These exercises, which display solid ROK-US combined defense posture, convey a very strong message to North Korea, coercing them to give up their military means and ambitions but to choose peaceful means of solution.

Ulchi-Focus Lens(UFL)

UFL is a command post exercise(CPX) that aims to improve the national wartime command and combat capability, and practices the actual procedures of war.

"Focus Lens" started in 1954 by the United Nations Command, and "Ulchi" was practiced by the ROK government after the infiltration of North Korean armed agents in January 21,1968. The two were integrated to the annual of exercise of UFL in 1976. The participants are central and local governments above certain levels, major industries, above-corps levels of the Army, above-fleet command levels of the Navy, and above-wing levels of the Air Force.

UFL is performed systematically, setting up hypothetical situations for the government's early stage crisis management and the ROK-US combined crisis management procedures.

Reception, Staging, Onward Movement & Integration(RSOI)

The RSOI is a command post exercise that practices the procedures for the US augmentation moving to the front and integrating in the battlefield after staging on the Korean Peninsula. It also includes ROK force's wartime support, mutual logistics support, mobilization, and reconstitution of combat capability.

The US forces stressed the need to assure a safe, quick, efficient deployment of augmentation to Korea as it developed the strategic concept of "Force Projection" after the Gulf War. In this regard, the RSOI has been annually conducted since 1994.

Foal Eagle(FE)

Foal Eagle Exercise is an annual ROK-US combined and joint field maneuver exercise conducted since 1961. It's purpose is to demonstrate ROK-US military commitment to deter war on the Korean Peninsula and to strengthen the combined and joint operational posture.

This exercise includes preparation against North Korean Special Operation Forces' (SOF) infiltration to the rear area in the early stages of war; Corps-level field training exercise(FTX); Brigade-level FTX; and combined amphibious exercises by ROK-US Marines, Navy, and Air Force. Local government officials, reserves and US military personnel from the mainland join the exercise. For efficiency purposes, FE was linked to RSOI in 2002.

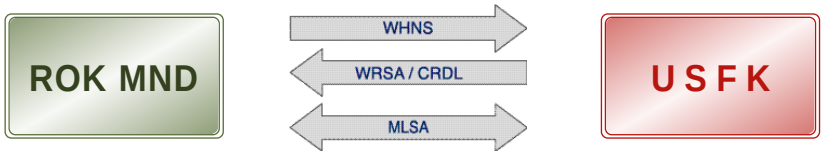
6 Logistics Support: "Providing Lasting War-fighting Capabilities"

Modern warfare needs to be carried out more expeditiously and accurately, not to mention the need to simultaneously manage and integrate operations in the battlefield. Particularly, the logistics support capability guarantees lasting efficient combat capability, which in the end determines the result of the war.

Even if the ROK-US combined forces were equipped with state-of-the-art weapons, without adequate logistics support, their war-fighting capability will likely be less efficient.

The basic ROK-US logistics support lies on the principle of supporting their own forces. But efforts are made to develop the ROK-US combined logistics support system in order to improve efficiency of the combined defense posture. To this end, arrangements have been made such as the Wartime Host Nation Support(WHNS), War Reserve Stocks for Allies(WRSA), and Mutual Logistics Support Agreement(MLSA).

Forms of Logistics Support



WHNS

Wartime Host Nation Support(WHNS) refers to the military and non-military support provided for the acceptance, transport and war-fighting of the US augmentation to Korea during contingencies or war.

In relation to the WHNS Agreement between the ROK and US, the first one was the agreement which US concluded with NATO member states(1974~1984). This was done because of the reduction in US defense budget and the call for burden-sharing. Talks between the ROK and US began at the SCM of 1985. In November 1991, at the 23rd SCM, the "Umbrella Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Korea Concerning Wartime Host Nations Support "was signed. In 1993, the" Wartime Host Nation Combined Steering Committee "(WCSC) charter was signed to discuss the details of wartime support.

WRSA/CRDL Materiel Transfer

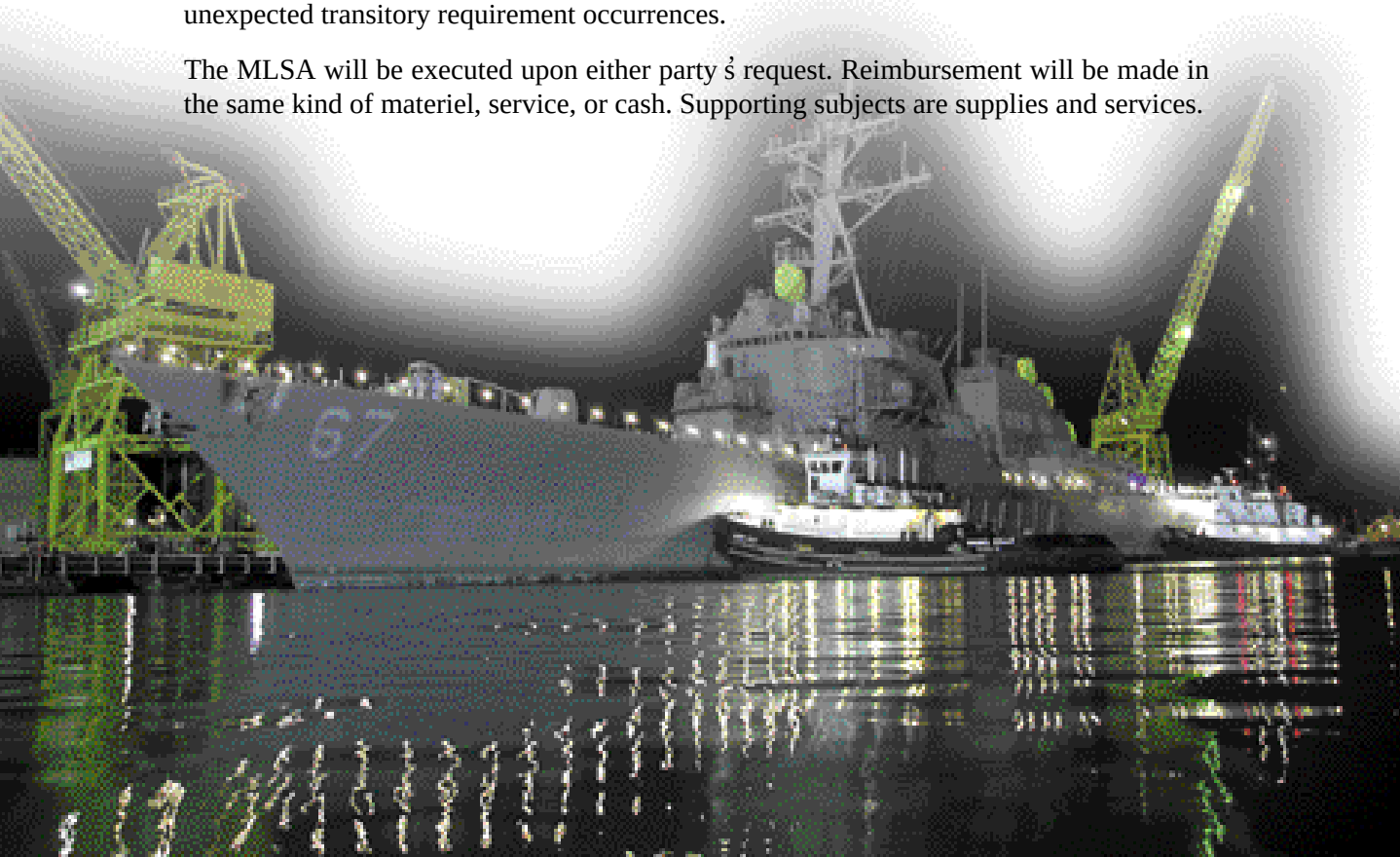
War Reserve Stock for Allies(WRSA) is war materiel US has stored within allied nations. Critical Requirement Deficiency List(CRDL) is the MOA between the US and ROK government relating to the sale of US peacetime stocks and war reserve materiel, other than that designated as WRSA, to Korea in a military emergency.

In 1982 and 1984, ROK Defense Minister and US Defense Secretary made arrangements on the sales of US war reserve stocks to the ROK. This was done because normal sales formalities would require preliminary examination and approval of the US Congress. The process would hinder timely supplement of insufficient equipment and materiel in the initial stages of the war.

MLSA

ROK Defense Minister and US Defense Secretary signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement(MLSA) in 1988 for the purpose of mutual logistics support during war and peacetime combined exercises and training, operations and joint missions and unexpected transitory requirement occurrences.

The MLSA will be executed upon either party's request. Reimbursement will be made in the same kind of materiel, service, or cash. Supporting subjects are supplies and services.



A Global Partnership

1. The Status of Forces Agreement(SOFA)
2. Burden-sharing Issue(SMA)
3. Apartment Construction Issue
4. Land Partnership Plan(LPP)
5. Kooni Range and Local Residents
6. Tackling the Environmental Issue

1 The Status of Forces Agreement(SOFA)

"It's been said that the ROK-US SOFA has hitherto been an uncomfortable sofa. But with this revision, I am most certain that we can sit on this SOFA for a sustained period without serious inconveniences."

These were the words of Mr. Song Min-soon, Director General of the North American Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, after concluding the negotiations for the second revision of the Status of Forces Agreement on December 28, 2000. Many controversial issues and supposed inadequacies were modified after 5 years of negotiations since they commenced in 1995.

The History of the ROK-US SOFA

The Status of Forces Agreements are accords concluded between a host and sending nation to govern various issues arising from the presence of the foreign troops, and are legal corollaries of growing military cooperation between countries and alliances.

The first agreement stipulating the status of US Forces in Korea was the "Executive Agreement concerning Interim Military and Security Matters during the Transitional Period" concluded between the President of the Republic of Korea and the Commanding General, United States Armed Forces in Korea on August 24, 1948. This agreement was designed to address legal issues relating to US troops stationed in Korea, which could surface as a consequence of the replacement of the US Military Government by the new Korean Government founded on August 15, 1948.

With the outbreak of the Korean War and subsequent deployment of US forces, the "Agreement relating to Jurisdiction over Criminal Offences committed by the United States Forces in Korea between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America," commonly referred to as the "Daejeon Agreement," was concluded at the request of the US on July 12, 1950. This agreement was concluded under the pressing circumstances of war, and unilaterally assigned criminal jurisdiction to US authorities.

The conclusion of the ROK-US Mutual Defense Treaty prompted the need for a new agreement governing the status of US Forces in Korea. Full-fledged negotiations were undertaken in 1962, and culminated in the conclusion of the "Status of Forces Agreement" on July 1966, which entered into force in February of the following year.

A series of criminal offenses committed by US soldiers outside of post led to the first revision of the SOFA on February 1, 1991, which remedied existing elements deemed unreasonable. These included the expansion of the scope of Korea's primary right to

exercise jurisdiction, return of facilities and areas no longer needed, and bringing employment conditions of Korean employees on US bases in conformity with domestic labor laws. Persistent controversy regarding enduring elements of inequality subsequently prompted another round of negotiations i.e., the second revision of the SOFA beginning in November of 1995.

Negotiations resumed in 1999, and under the determination of both ROK and US heads of state to expeditiously bring about the revision of the SOFA, a series of formal and informal negotiations were held since August 2000. On January 18, 2001, Lee Joung-binn, the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Evans Revere, the US Charge D'Affaire ad interim, formally signed the revised SOFA text, which was effectuated on April 2, 2001 upon completion of the relevant domestic procedures.

In particular, in the wake of the accidental death during an exercise by a US Engineering Battalion, a "Special Joint Task Force for the Improvement of SOFA Operations" was established reflecting high concerns in the Korean public to make practical improvements in the operation of the SOFA. To date, the ROK and the US side have agreed to improve safety measures such as providing notification of USFK exercises and vehicle movement plans in advance and measures to strengthen the level of cooperation during the initial stage of investigation. We are further planning to continue discussions to deal with other issues related to SOFA operations.

What does the revised SOFA feature?

The main features and significance of the second revised SOFA are as follows:

Firstly, it includes newly installed "environmental provisions." The provisions are contained in the "Agreed Minutes" and the "Memorandum of Special Understanding on Environmental Protection." Based on the principle of reciprocity, the "Agreed Minutes" stipulates US respect for relevant Korean environmental laws, regulations, and standards, and provides that Korea will implement its environmental laws and regulations with due regard for their impact on US personnel. The "Memorandum of Special Understanding" provides that Environmental Governing Standards are to be reviewed biennially and updated to accommodate new rules and standards regarding environmental protection. It also provides for the conduct of environmental performance assessments to prevent environmental contamination and joint investigations for remedying contamination.

Secondly, with respect to the exercise of criminal jurisdiction, the revision allows Korea to retain custody of a US servicemember accused of a heinous crime of murder or an egregious rape, without handing the accused over to US authorities. Furthermore, the timing

of the transfer of custody from US to Korean authorities has been brought forward from "the conclusion of a trial" to the "time of indictment," for crimes involving twelve offenses of sufficient gravity which include murder, rape, drugs, and kidnapping.

The twelve offenses of sufficient gravity reflect the survey results of crimes committed by US servicemembers throughout the past 10 years. For other misdemeanors regarding which the usefulness of pretrial custody is deemed negligible, custody is transferred after the final conviction.

12 offenses of sufficient gravity

① murder, ② rape, ③ kidnapping for ransom, ④ trafficking in illegal drugs, ⑤ manufacturing illegal drugs, ⑥ arson, ⑦ robbery with a dangerous weapon, ⑧ attempts to commit the foregoing offenses, ⑨ assault resulting in death, ⑩ driving under the influence of alcohol, resulting in death, ⑪ fleeing from the crime scene after committing a traffic accident resulting in death, and ⑫ offenses which include one or more of the above-referenced offenses as lesser included offenses.

The third concerns labor services by Korean employees within US bases. The existing provisions allowed nonconformity with domestic labor laws and regulations if observance was at variance with "military requirements." The revised Agreement specifically limits these instances of "military requirements" to "war, a state of emergency equivalent to war, and situations that affect the ability of US forces to maintain a state of readiness to address such circumstances as mission changes and resource constraints."

Furthermore, termination of employment is prohibited unless there is just cause or such employment is inconsistent with US military requirements. The existing "discretionary layoffs" clause was revised to a "layoff limitation" clause obligating the US to endeavor to minimize employee terminations under circumstances which necessitate reductions, thereby strengthening the labor conditions for Korean employees.

Fourth, with respect to the grant and return of facilities and areas, the US is liable for consulting the Korean government in advance when constructing new facilities on US bases. The revision also stipulates the return of unused land through joint inspections which are to be carried out more than once a year. If a need to change the use of facilities and areas arise, the bilateral SOFA Joint Committee will investigate the matter and endorse the change or make a decision on its return.

Fifth, contrary to the erstwhile absence of provisions on non-criminal proceedings, new provisions on the request by Korean courts to the US for documents and other

procedures, have laid the legal framework for Korean nationals who have suffered damages or injuries due to US military operations or traffic accidents, to seek redress through proceedings.

Q1 Is the ROK-US SOFA unfair?

A Certain voices within the Korean society have been critical of the supposed inequalities latent in the SOFA. Namely, that the SOFA was being abused as a pretext for endowing USFK personnel with unreasonable perquisites.

However, the ROK-US SOFA is a bilateral accord that is necessary for the presence of US forces, which in turn is indispensable for the security of Korea. By harmonizing the distinct cultures and legal systems of the ROK and US, the SOFA articulates the laws and obligations with which US forces in Korea should comply, and concurrently sets out the legal basis for the US to protect its nationals overseas, thereby minimizing the room for friction between the two countries.

Hence, the ROK-US SOFA remains within the purview of Korea's legal system, while at the same time blending the institutional differences between the two countries to ensure that US servicemembers are not disadvantaged as a result of their tour in Korea compared to an assignment in the US.

Q2 Is the ROK-US SOFA unfair compared to US SOFAs with Germany and Japan?

A The US has status of forces agreements with about 80 nations throughout the world. While these SOFAs share much in common with respect to the objectives, organizational structure, effectuation and procedures for revision, it needs to be recognized that they also vary since they reflect political, social, cultural and legal features that are unique to individual nations. Hence, making claims of unfairness and inequality by comparing the ROK-US SOFA with those with Germany and Japan is somewhat unwarranted.

Nonetheless, it can be said that on the whole, the revised ROK-US SOFA is more advanced than the US SOFAs with Germany and Japan, especially with respect to criminal jurisdiction and the environment. For instance, custody over an accused personnel is transferred to Korean authorities at the "time of indictment" as is the case in the US-Japan SOFA, whereas US authorities retain custody until the final conviction under the US SOFA with Germany.

There are similarities among the three agreements with respect to the environmental clause in that the SOFAs with the ROK, Japan and Germany contain environmental provisions in the Agreed Minutes, a separate joint statement, and a supplementary protocol respectively. However, the equivalent of the "environmental governing standards" provided for in the ROK-US Memorandum of Special Understanding, is absent in the SOFA with Germany.

The SOFAs with Japan and Germany both lack provisions similar to the ROK-US SOFA provision that prescribes a subcommittee joint survey for the return of land longer needed or for a change in use. In this respect, the ROK-US SOFA is more advanced than its counterparts in Japan and Germany.

2 Burden-sharing Issue

Burden-sharing is a project, in which Korea shares a certain part of the total stationing cost of the USFK - except for USFK personnel's wages - that are paid in won such as Korean employees 'wages, military construction, aircraft maintenance and other logistics support.

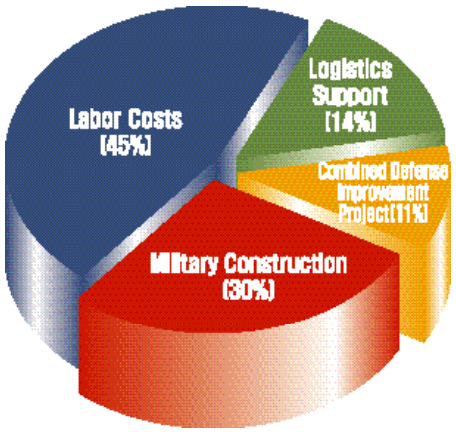
According to the Special Measures Agreement(SMA) of 1991, Korea is obligated to share the costs for the USFK's stationing in Korea. The specific burden-sharing contribution is determined regularly through ROK-US agreements.

Many people think that burden-sharing only benefits the USFK, but actually, it is not spent entirely for the USFK.

First, the wage paid to Korean employees hired by the USFK consists 46 percent of the total contribution. 39 percent is spent on USFK military construction and repairs, and on combined defense improvement projects which mostly benefit Korean companies. Another 15 percent is spent on logistics support some of which is used to buy Korean-made materiel and maintenance supplies. In other words, most of the burden-sharing contributions eventually come back to us.

Burden-sharing contributions are not pure expendables, it contributes to creating more demands in areas such as transportation equipment, aircraft maintenance, construction materiel and other USFK requirements from the Korean market. Also, sharing the labor costs for USFK-hired Korean personnel ensures stable labor conditions for the workers. This in turn contributes in securing the Korean labor market. In an overall perspective, burden sharing is not purely expendable because it benefits Korea by creating job opportunities, contributing to the development of the local economy and creating more domestic demands.

Burden-sharing Expenditures(**FY03**)



Q1 Is Korea sharing more of the burden than Japan and Germany?

A Answer: According to the 2000 data, Korea's share is higher than that of Germany but is lower than that of Japan.

Classification	Direct Support	Indirect Support	Total	Total stationing cost of US	Support percentage(%)
Korea	4.33	3.63	7.96	18.95	42
Germany	0.89	11.22	12.11	57.67	21
Japan	38.77	11.26	50.03	63.32	79

*Direct Support: Burden-sharing contribution included in the budget
*Indirect Support: Real estate support, tax exemption, etc.

Germany pays not only the bilateral contribution to the US but also NATO-related multilateral support. The above table does not account for that.

Japan's share is greater than that of Korea even though the structure and weapon systems of the USFJ are designed to swiftly counteract against threats not only to Japan, but other areas including the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East. Therefore, the actual share for Korea can be deemed less than that of Japan and Germany.

3 Apartment Construction Issue

" Our facilities and infrastructure are old; over one third of all buildings in the command are between 25 and 50 years old, and one third are classified as temporary buildings. Over 40% of our unaccompanied service members live in inadequate quarters; many in buildings erected shortly after the end of the Korean War. "

- General LaPorte, Commander, USFK, testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee (March 13, 2003) -

It is likely to assume that the USFK, armed forces of the world's most powerful and wealthy nation, would live in optimal living conditions. We would generally imagine that they would all live in luxurious houses and facilities, enjoy high level of consumption and quality of life. But the reality is quite contrary to the general notion.

Conditions for the 684-unit Hannam Village stated in the press release by the USFK on January 27, 2002, explicitly show the poor conditions in which they live. Those quarters were built in 1982 and are currently undergoing quick patchworks to fix problems from aging. In particular, 74.7 percent of all facilities and 83.7 percent of the housing units in Yongsan were built more than 40 years ago.

The USFK is currently attempting to improve housing conditions and the overall quality of life of their soldiers. Under the plan of newly constructing a total of 1,066 units over the span of 10 years, the USFK began to take down the existing 746 apartment units that are 30-40 years old. As the first step, construction for two 5-story 60-unit apartment buildings will break ground in August 2002 and is scheduled to be completed by August 2004.

The apartment construction plan is intended to improve the current poor conditions of living. In the case of US forces in Japan and Germany, over 70 percent are provided with housing for accompanied US service members(72 percent in Japan, 74 percent in Europe), while the figure stands at a mere 10 percent for the USFK. Out of some 37,000 US service members in Korea, only 10 percent of the married are actually accompanied by their families.

Such unfavorable living conditions have been a negative factor to the morale of US soldiers in the Peninsula. US soldiers choose Korea as the least desirable service location, for lack of adequate housing, which makes it difficult to accompany their families. The adverse effects from poor housing conditions are not limited to the morale and welfare of US soldiers. In truth, they can undermine combat readiness as well.

In order to provide stable stationing environment and maintain combat readiness, the ROK government plans to actively support the efforts to resolve the housing shortage problems, while taking into account key underlying factors of the future, such as a long-term plan of the USFK and Yongsan Garrison relocation.

According to Yu, Seong-ryong, who was the Byeongjopanseo(Defense Minister) and Yeonguijeong(Prime Minister) during the Japanese Invasion of Chosun, the most important task for him to undertake after reinforcements arrived from the Ming China was to supply food, arrange housing and provide boats to cross the rivers. These were necessities for the reinforcements to fight with their lives.
There were many reasons for victory such as Admiral Yi, Sun-sin and the Righteous Volunteer Army ṡ accomplishments, but the wisdom of Yu, Seong-ryong ṡ military diplomacy was a big factor. We might need to borrow the wisdom of the past in viewing the housing construction issue in Yongsan.

4 Land Partnership Plan(LPP)

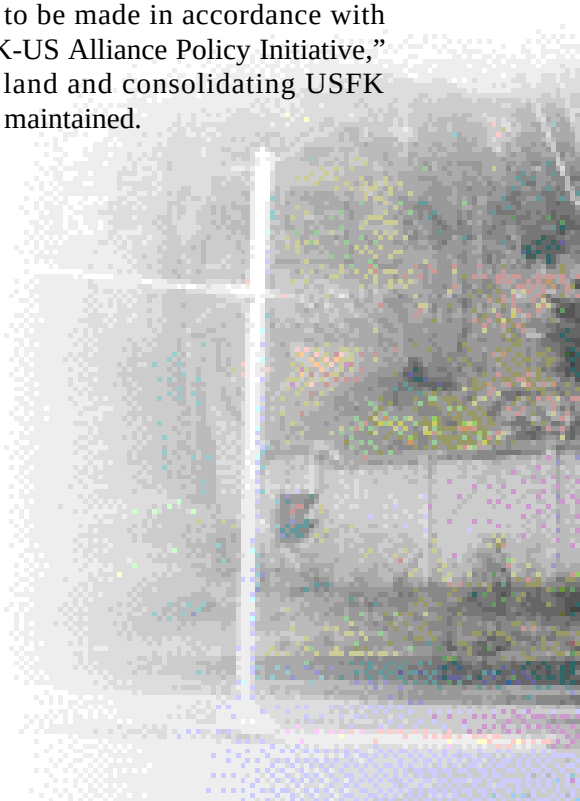
Land Partnership Plan(LPP) is an effort to consolidate USFK military facilities across the Korean Peninsula and return unnecessary facilities and land,thereby maintaining/ managing the USFK and ROK-US-shared facilities with higher efficiency.

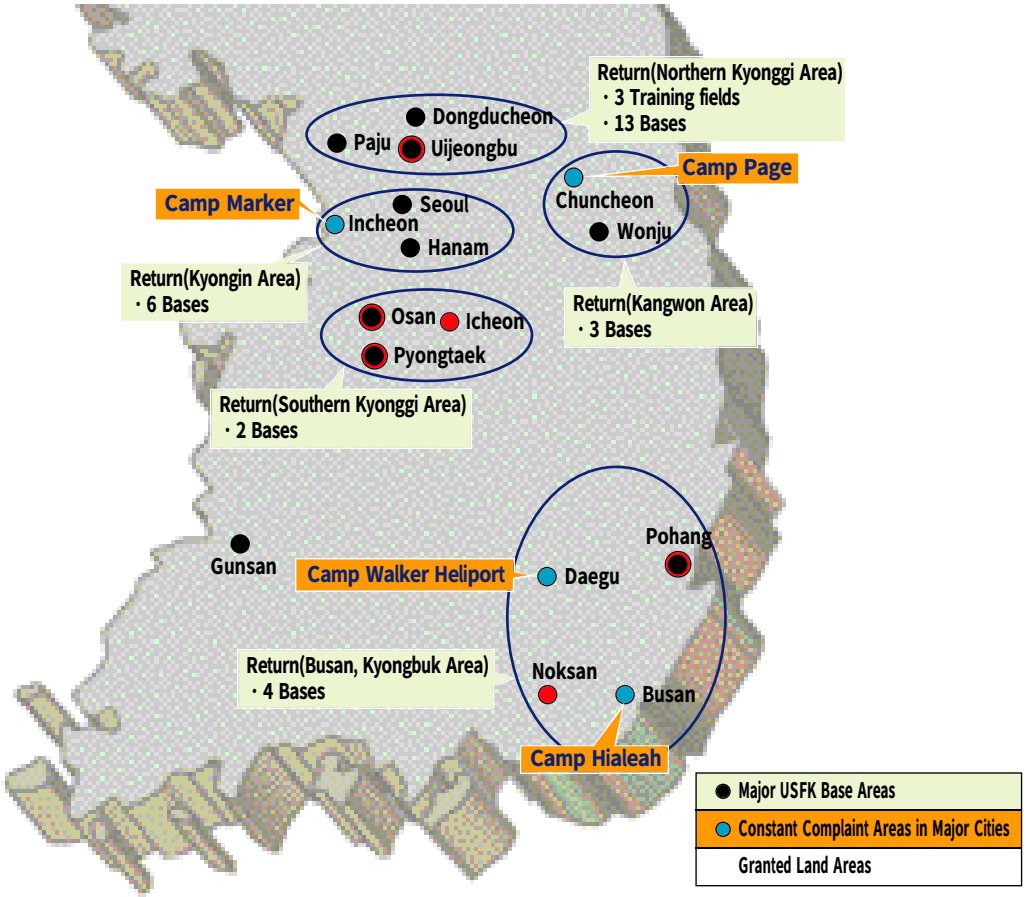
There have been constant local complaints regarding the land granted to the USFK. In an effort to peacefully resolve local complaints related to US-granted land, minimize anti-American sentiments in Korean society, and guarantee the stable stationing and training conditions for the USFK, the ROK MND has been consulting closely with the US.

During the 33rd Security Consultative Meeting(SCM) in November 2001, the ROK Defense Minister and the US Defense Secretary signed a Letter of Intent(LOI) regarding the LPP, and signed the agreement of the LPP in March, 2002.

In accordance with the agreement between the ROK and US, the US is to return a total of approx. 33,000 acres which includes 28 bases and facilities worth 1,700 acres and 3 training fields worth 32,000 acres. The ROK is to grant use of 1,300 acres of new land, provide construction and use of 9 replacement facilities, and use selected ROK training facilities with the US. As such, the current 60,000 acres of land will be reduced down to 26,000 acres(43 percent of the current level) by 2011, with consolidation of major bases from 41 to 23.

Although some revisions to this plan are expected to be made in accordance with ROK-US joint discussions on the" Future of the ROK-US Alliance Policy Initiative," its centerpiece of returning certain facilities and land and consolidating USFK military facilities across the Korean peninsula will be maintained.




Return(Northern Kyonggi Area)
· 3 Training fields
· 13 Bases
Dongducheon
Paju
Uijeongbu
Camp Page
Camp Marker
Seoul
Incheon
Hanam
Chuncheon
Wonju
Return(Kyongin Area)
· 6 Bases
Return(Kangwon Area)
· 3 Bases
Osan
Icheon
Pyongtaek
Return(Southern Kyonggi Area)
· 2 Bases
Pohang
Gunsan
Camp Walker Heliport
Daegu
Return(Busan, Kyongbuk Area)
· 4 Bases
Noksan
Busan
Camp Hialeah
Major USFK Base Areas
Constant Complaint Areas in Major Cities
Granted Land Areas

US ARMY

Q1 How will the LPP be funded?

A The budget forecast for the LPP is approximately 3.3 trillion Korean Won(equivalent to $2.5 billion) for the next 10 years, of which the US pays 1.84 trillion Won($1.38 billion) and ROK pays 1.49 trillion Won($1.12 billion).

The cost imposed on the ROK consists of the construction of replacement facilities for the 9 bases that the ROK requested to be relocated($900 million), the acquisition of land for additional grants($190 million), the extended ROK training ranges, as well as the rearrangement of rights for safety area and land inside the bases/training ranges granted to the USFK. The costs incurred throughout the arrangements will be paid by selling land to be returned. This means that there will be no additional burden on the defense budget.

Similarly, USFK plans to build replacement facilities for existing bases scheduled for relocation or closing, by utilizing available funds without extra costs.

Q2 What are the expected benefits of the LPP when pursued as schedule?

A When the LPP gets underway as planned, training conditions and stationing environment critical in maintaining combat readiness of the USFK will be improved, while the problems with local governments will be alleviated.

The granted land the US agreed to return are clustered near Seoul and North Kyonggi Province, namely Paju, Dongducheon, and Uijeongbu. These are heavily populated areas that are pivotal for long-term city development. USFK bases in these areas are geographically located either in the center of the city or adjacent to irrigation lands, thereby inviting civil actions on environmental and property rights.

Once those USFK military bases and facilities are closed and realigned regionally, the total number of bases will be reduced. Through this process, efficiency and effectiveness are expected to improve dramatically.

5 Kooni Range and Local Residents

The Kooni Range, a live-fire range used by the US Air Force, is located on the coastal area near Maehyang-ri, Ujeong-myeon, Hwaseong-gun, Gyeonggi Province. The range is composed of sea surface firing range and ground firing range. The area of the surface firing range is approximately 5,640 acres with the Nong Island in the center of a 2.5-km radius. Nong Island is 1.6 km away from the Maehyang-ri coast. The area of the ground firing range, which adjoins the surface firing range, is approximately 310 acres.

As the only US Air Force range, the Kooni Range has been in use since 1995. Live firing and strafing from US fighter planes and helicopters are carried out, from Monday to Thursday at scheduled periods of time.

On May 8, 2000, a US 7th Air Force aircraft jettisoned live ordnance in emergency, touching off the long-standing complaints of the local residents. In response, the ROK MND formed a team for civil petitions, with the Vice Chief of Staff of the ROKAF as the chairman, in order to facilitate consultations with the local residents and NGOs, as well as establish a cooperative channel with the US 7th Air Force in resolving the issue.

On August 18, 2000, the MND presented a comprehensive proposal to resolve the noise problems from strafing training and ROK Army artillery training on the strafe pit. The proposal includes safety issues concerning the local residents such as live firing, disposition of dud, and jettisoning of live ordnance in emergency situations near Nong Island.

Accordingly, low-angle strafing and ground firing at the strafe-in zone were prohibited. Nowadays, residents of Maehyang-ri, Seokcheon-ri, and Ihwa-ri are free from the worst of noise pollution. Safety concerns from firing training rounds and emergency jettisoning have been resolved.

Noise from low-angle strafing was singled out as causing the most inconvenience to the local residents. It was because the aircraft ś final leg stretched right above the village. Today, the zone moved to the sea with aircraft no longer flying over the village. Noise has been significantly reduced.

Comprehensive Proposal of the MND

1. Prohibit US Air Force 's strafing and ROK Ground Guard Unit 's firing of crew-served weapons within the strafing range.
2. Use quieter and safer training rounds instead of live ordnance for training in the Nong Island range.
3. Disposal of unexploded ordnances in Nong Island shall be limited to training rounds which make less noise. Such actions shall be notified in advance to the local government and residents.
4. Move the emergency jettison area 700 meters to the west from the current position toward the sea to ensure residents 'safety and prevent noise pollution in case of emergency situations where live ordnance release is inevitable.
5. Move the aircraft entry/exit route to/from the range over to the sea area to prevent accidental misfire. Review the general pattern of drills, make adequate adjustments and ensure safety of training.

6 Tackling the Environmental Issue

As the Korean public's interest in the environment grew, pollution in and around USFK camps have become an important issue pending between the ROK and US.

The SOFA had to be revised and complemented to settle the environmental issue. The ROK and US added environmental provisions to the Agreed Minutes during the second revision of the SOFA signed on January 18, 2001. On such basis, detailed environmental regulations were provided in the "Memorandum of Special Understanding on Environmental Protection."

At the 180th Joint Committee meeting on April 2, 2001, the Committee tasked the Environmental Subcommittee, requesting a recommendation on detailed procedures. After a number of working-level consultations, the two countries produced the "Environmental Information Exchange and Access Procedures" which was adopted at the SOFA Joint Committee on January 18, 2002.

Key points of the "Environmental Information Exchange and Access Procedures" are provided below:

1. The events that the ROK and US have agreed to mutually notify upon occurrence include those that have known, imminent and substantial endangerment to the public safety, human health or the natural environment, on the other side of the boundary between a USFK facility or area and the surrounding ROK territory. These events also include those solely on one side of the boundary that cause significant contamination.
2. The USFK and the ROK Ministry of Environment(MOE) agreed to share information by mutually requesting information on issues that can impact the environment.
3. By establishing review and renewal procedures for the USFK's Environmental Governing Standards(EGS), the MOE will provide the USFK with our environmental laws and regulations and the USFK can consult with the MOE in revising their EGS.
4. In case of an environmentally hazardous event, the event shall be communicated as soon as possible by telephone. That notification should be followed within 48 hours by written notification.
5. In case of an environmentally hazardous event or the USFK returns its base, by presenting a written request that states clear and specific purpose and scope, the requesting component chairman can get approval from the hosting component chairman for the joint access, survey and monitoring(e.g. access into USFK bases).
6. The two Co-Chairmen of the SOFA Environmental Subcommittee will approve the joint access, survey, and monitoring by mutual agreement.

The "Environmental Information Exchange and Access Procedures" is also to be applied in case of returns or grants of bases with regard to the Land Partnership Plan. It is now possible to conduct a comprehensive environmental investigation on the bases to be returned prior to the actual hand over.

Yongsan Family Park

V Epilogue

Additional Facts about the USFK

1. History of Yongsan Garrison
2. Symbol of Division: " JSA "
3. Life in Korea for American Soldiers
4. US Soldiers and Local Community
5. KATUSA: " Korean Soldiers amongst American Soldiers "
6. " Front-line Partnership "
7. " We Go Together! "

1 History of Yongsan Garrison

Yongsan Garrison has a long history of hosting foreign troops. For example, a red-brick building in the Main Post was used by the Japanese troops to keep war horses. Due to the long history of foreign troops ' presence, " Mt. Dunji " within Yongsan Garrison is said to have been named accordingly." Dun "means" stationing of forces."

Yongsan certainly is a strategic stronghold. The Han River provides an easy access and it is close to Mt. Namsan. Foreign troops that entered Seoul took advantage of such conditions. The Mongolian troops who invaded Korea in the late Koryo dynasty were the first to occupy Yongsan. During the Japanese invasion of Chosun (1592~1598), Japanese generals Konishi Yukinaga and Kato Kiyomasa encamped at what is now Wonhyoro 4-ga and Cheongpa-dong. During the Military Rebellion " Imo-gullan "in 1882, Chinese general Wu Changqing s 3,000 troops occupied Yongsan. This is the very unit that kidnapped Emperor Gojong s father, Heungseondaewongun, to China(Qing).

Japanese forces took position in Yongsan during the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War. During the Japanese colonial rule, the Imperial Japanese Command in Chosun was located in Yongsan. This is why Mt. Dunji was once called " Mt. Waedun."" Wae "means Japan in Korean. Barracks were built at the south side of the mountain thus the name of this area is" Namyeong-dong."" Nam "means south, " yeong "means barracks in Korean.

After the national liberation, the ROK Army Headquarters(what is now the War Memorial), the Ministry of National Defense and the United Nations Command positioned themselves around Mt. Dunji.

In 1955, the United Nations Command moved from Tokyo, Japan to Yongsan. Yongsan provided the base for United Nations Command and United States Forces Korea. In 1978 the ROK-US Combined Forces Command was established on the same ground. Yongsan is now at the heart of the combined defense of the ROK and US.

Yongsan Garrison totals an area of 710 acres. On the north, the Main Post is positioned(Gate 5). Seated here are the US Forces Korea, the Eighth US Army, and the ROK-US Combined Forces Command. To the south sits the South Post providing space for housing, foreigner s school, Dragon Hill Lodge and so forth. The golf course(65 acres) that used to be in the South Post was returned and converted to " Yongsan Family Park "in 1991. A National Museum is currently under construction on the site.

Itaewon

The Chosun Dynasty had many “won”s to provide lodging for people travelling on public missions. Itaewon was one of these wons, and the village that formed around Itaewon was named after it.

The original Itaewon that provided lodging and horses for public missions was located to the south of Mt. Namsan and to the northeast of the current Itaewon.

Under the rule of Japanese imperialism, Itaewon was used as an exclusive housing area for the Japanese. It was officially renamed as Suido-cho Ni-chome. However, the residents continued to call it“ Itaewon.”

After the end of the Korean War, the area began to house American soldiers and transformed into a famous shopping and tourism site for foreigners.

On May 28, 2001, the city of Seoul decided to develop Itaewon as a tourist zone. The government is currently working on measures to develop tourist souvenirs and to improve the traffic system.

Today, Itaewon is seeing its rebirth not only as the sphere of daily living for foreigners including American soldiers, but also as one of the major tourist attractions in the city of Seoul.

2 Symbol of Division: "JSA"

The Military Demarcation Line(MDL) runs 248 kilometers(155 miles) through the center of the Korean Peninsula. The MDL begins from Gyodong Island at the estuary of the Yeseong River and the Han River in the west, via Panmunjom(five miles south of Gaeseong), through Cheolwon and Gimhwa and to Myeongho-ri of Goseong on the East Coast.

The Joint Security Area(JSA) is a small oval with a diameter of 800 meters sitting right on the MDL. The JSA, administratively belonging to Gunnae-myeon, Paju City, Gyeonggi Province, was the venue for the armistice talks during the Korean War. It has a history of hosting a total of 1,076 rounds of meetings during 2 years and 19 days to finally conclude the Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953.

Origin of Panmunjom

The exact venue where the armistice talks were held is about 1㎞ north of the current Panmunjom. It was composed of four thatched cottages, barracks and a temporary building where the actual talks took place.

The original name of Panmunjom was "Neolmun-ri." King Seonjo of the Chosun dynasty stayed here for a night seeking refuge from the Japanese invasion. Whereas Neolmun-ri is pure Korean, the word Panmun is a Chinese translation. Also, the name was partly originated from a tavern, or jom in Chinese character, near the meeting place of the armistice talks. The name in Chinese characters was used to help Chinese representatives spot the meeting place.

Tragedy of Panmunjom

Panmunjom holds a tragic memory. The Korean People's Army(KPA; North Korean soldiers) committed the notorious "ax murder incident," also known as the August 18 incident, at 1100 hours on August 18, 1976. UNC soldiers attempted to cut down a huge poplar tree that blocked its guard post's view. The KPA attacked the tree cutters, murdering Captain Bonifas(posthumously promoted to a Major) and First Lieutenant Barrett and wounded 4 US soldiers and 4 ROK soldiers.

After the incident, the UNC conducted "Operation Paul Bunyan" to cut down the poplar tree. The stump of the tree remains on the same spot today. The unit guarding

the south part of the JSA, Panmunjom, was named“ Camp Bonifas ”to pay tribute to the sacrificed.

Next to Panmunjom, along the MDL, runs the Sacheon River. A bridge over this river connecting the North and the South is called the“ Bridge of No Return.”When the prisoners of war were exchanged right after the Armistice, they had to choose their destination on this bridge, and once chosen, they could not go the other way.

“ The Bridge of No Return ”was the only way for the North Koreans to come to Panmunjom. However, after the ax murder incident, both sides were not allowed to cross the MDL. North Koreans were blocked from using the bridge. As a result, a new bridge was built. The UNC calls this bridge the“ 72-Hour Bridge,”because it took only 72 hours to complete the bridge.

The Bridge of No Return

3 Life in Korea for American Soldiers

The road to Korea

Some US soldiers apply to be stationed in Korea but most are stationed through the rotation. Is Korea a popular place for the soldiers? Unfortunately, Korea is the least desired place by US soldiers. The biggest reason for this is the unfamiliarity with Korea. There are many cases where soldiers are not aware of the fact that Korea is a modern and developed country. Another important reason is that Korea is an "unaccompanied tour" area. There are 37,000 US soldiers in Korea of which 57 percent are married. But only 10 percent of the married(around 1,987) are living with their families. A family-accompanied tour is a two- year tour while coming alone is one year.

When a soldier is assigned to Korea, he or she receives education through pamphlets, the internet, and briefings, but only at an introductory level. The reason for this is because most soldiers apply for a one-year tour, making a specific education course unnecessary. In the case of Japan and Germany, where most US soldiers are serving for 2-3 years, a detailed course is given including language courses.

Upon arrival

At the sight of such a developed country, the first impression of Korea is a shock. They are particularly impressed with the high education level, international recognition, and the kindness of the Korean people. Despite this good impression, they are educated to be cautious in regard to past incidents and anti-American sentiment. For example, they are advised to go out with a buddy when leaving camp and not to travel alone. Influenced by such advice, most US soldiers in Korea enjoy their time after work near camp amongst themselves making it difficult to know and understand the Korean culture, the streets of Korea and the Korean way of thinking. KATUSAs, who are a connecting link between the ROK and US, play a key role in helping the US soldiers adapt to life in Korea.

Difficulties of serving in Korea

First, there is the problem of old facilities and shortage of housing. Most of the facilities, which were built right after the

Korean War, are a huge inconvenience to the US soldiers who expect a higher quality of life. There are economic pressures of living away from home. Also, when they invite their family to Korea, they have to use their own money.

Second, a small part of Korean society with anti-American sentiment make the families uncomfortable and especially hurts the pride of the soldiers who came over to "defend an allied nation." Fortunately, most American soldiers know that the Koreans regard them as the key in the ROK-US Alliance despite anti-American rallies and street demonstrations.

Third, there is the problem of child education. Some camps operate their own elementary, middle and high schools but the level of education is lower than the level back in the States.

Benefits of serving in Korea

To US soldiers, Korea is the most threat-prone area in the world. For this reason, hardship comes with the package of serving in Korea. The level of exercises and training (combat training, field maneuvering, target practice, combined exercises, etc.) are the highest in the world. US soldiers stationed in Korea have a saying "Fight Tonight," which means that they are ready for any kind of threat as soon as it occurs. Therefore, a tour of duty contributes to one's career and provides many opportunities for future positions.

US soldiers, who understand America's world strategy and international relationship, all agree that the ROK-US Alliance is one of the strongest alliances in the world. In the case of Japan and Germany, they are merely "training together" while in Korea, they are maintaining the closest relationship based on the past of "shedding of blood" together. Because of this fact, US soldiers serving in Korea under the ROK-US Alliance have great pride in doing their part to deter war and bring permanent peace.

Combat exercises

Risk of war in Korea is very high in the eyes of US soldiers. That is why the USFK makes all its efforts in maintaining a firm readiness posture and training exercises. Soldiers in the frontline area spend about a week of every month in the field and train continuously to learn the necessary combat skills in accordance with their branch.

For the infantry, there is the Expert Infantry Badge(EIB). This badge is given to those who have passed the course of infantryman, which includes shooting, map reading and marching. This course is very difficult in which approximately 7 out of 8 fail.

Everyday life

US soldiers usually assemble for morning exercises at 06:30. This is different from the ROK roll call. After the morning exercise, they have breakfast and work from 08:00 to 17:00. US soldiers are strict about separating working hours with personal time but when there is unfinished work, US soldiers also work after-hours.

After working hours, US enlisted personnel are free to leave camp and most US enlisted enjoy shopping in stores near their camps. Korean clothes are popular to these American servicemen, at affordable prices and with diversity. Electronic gadgets are also popular. Many enjoy having a drink and hanging out with other soldiers. The average wage for an E-5 serving in Korea is $19,000.

Return time to camp during weekdays is 24:00 and 01:00 during the weekend. Return time is strictly observed and there is no set time for sleeping. It is a soldier's responsibility to take care of his or her own time and schedule.

Also, US soldiers go on many sight seeing tours. The United Service Organization (USO) provides many programs for the soldiers serving in Korea, which include different kinds of tours of Korea. Even the soldiers in the frontline area have a chance to see the 63 Building, the Lotte World, COEX, Changgyeong Palace and other famous sites at least once during their tour through the USO, or with their buddies, or by the arrangements of their units.

SIX - STAR

We often call a Sergeant the " 5th Star" as a joke. The reason for this is to show respect to the highest rank for a private and to stress the responsibilities and pride of being the senior enlisted man. If the ROK has the " 5th Star, " the US has the " Six Star " implying that he or she is higher than a five-star general, to value and show respect to the enlisted men.

Since 1970, the USO has held an annual event in March for the purpose of enhancing the friendly relationship and understanding between the ROK and US soldiers. At this event, soldiers of exemplary conduct from the ROK, USFK, and UNC are acknowledged for their accomplishments and are given the " Six Star " title.

4 US Soldiers and Local Community

The USFK seeks to strengthen its friendship with the locals.

Through activities such as opening US camps to visitors, having picnics and parties, displaying US equipment, sponsoring friendly sports activities, and having military band performances, the USFK is reaching out to the local community and its people to promote goodwill and help the locals better understand them. During the "2002 Korea/Japan World Cup," the USFK provided English training support to Korean public officials and interpreters.

The USFK's main area of interest is helping and offering sacrifice to those who are neglected and lonely. It is trying to establish sisterhood relationships with day-care centers, rehabilitation centers and homes for the elderly. In addition to these activities, the USFK is also providing service for public welfare such as snow-removing, road cleaning, supporting farmers during the busy season, supporting flood relief, providing water during a drought and giving medical support.

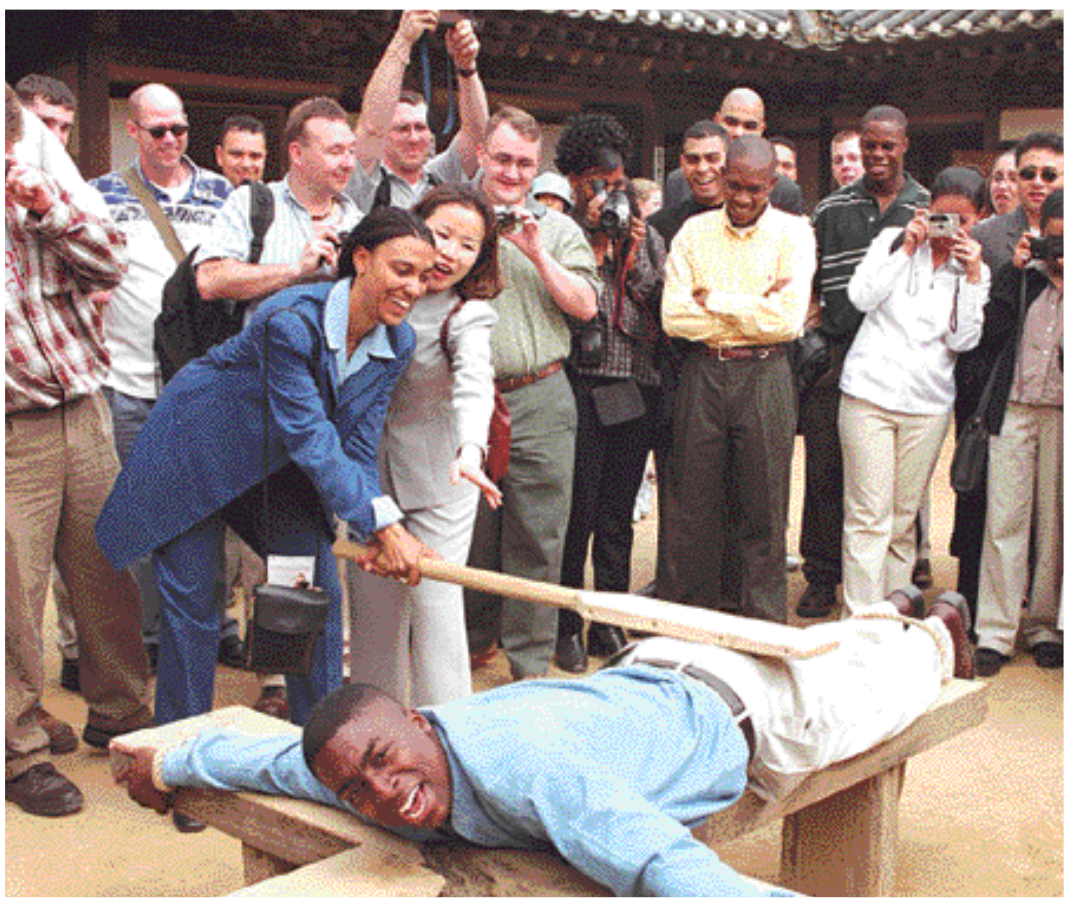
"Rescue the pregnant woman and the baby!"

A touching story of US soldiers rescuing a Korean pregnant woman and the baby through a courageous airlift operation at Baekryeong Island still remains in our hearts.

Mrs. Yu, aged 33, a resident of Baekryeong Island, was in labor and needed an immediate Caesarean operation in order to save the life of the fetus and herself. Hearing such news, the ROK Marine Corps "Blue Dragon(Cheongryong)" unit requested an emergency airlift to the ROK JCS and Air Force Operation Command. The ROKAF quickly ordered an HH-60 helicopter at Cheongju Air Base to take off for the island but the thick sea mist made the entry impossible. The ROK JCS, learning the failure of the operation, quickly requested support from the USFK. At 01:55, February 19, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the US 33rd Rescue Squadron airlifted Mrs. Yu to a hospital in Incheon. Mrs. Yu delivered a healthy daughter around 16:30 the same day.

By enhancing their friendly ties with the local community, the USFK is understanding the Korean culture better and is trying to establish a cultural bond with the Koreans.

Also, the USFK is providing many opportunities for the soldiers to learn and experience the Korean culture and is organizing visits to Korean homes. It also sets up visits to Korea by family members back in the States. These are some of the efforts to fix a good image of the USFK in Korean society.



USFK soldiers experiencing the Korean Culture

5 KATUSA: " Korean Soldiers amongst American Soldiers "

" Of all the soldiers who were under my command, the ROK KATUSAs were the most elite group of soldiers. They never showed up drunk or disappeared without notice. They were hardworking, possessed high military discipline and showed fast learning skills. They only got paid three dollars a month which was worth a night out for a US soldier in Dongducheon. "

This statement is from the book, titled "My American Journey"(1995), written by the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. In this book, Secretary Powell praises the KATUSAs by recollecting back to 1973 when he served in South Korea as a battalion commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, EUSA.

Often mispronounced as " KACHUSA, " the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, KATUSA in short, are ROK soldiers augmented to the USFK. They serve in administrative, logistic, combat and many other duties. They are under US command but personnel management and education are authorized by the ROK Army through the EUSA ROKA Support Group.

There are US soldiers stationed all over the world, but the KATUSA system only exists in South Korea. The KATUSA system started to supplement the lack of US man power during the Korean War. Another purpose was to use the KATUSA ś knowledge of the local area and terrain and also to distinguish allies from enemies. Cho, Byung-ok, the Minister of Internal Affairs at the time suggested to General Walker, during his inspection of the battle of July 15, 1950, to place a ROK police unit under General Walker ś command in order to ferret out possible North Korean soldiers who could infiltrate into the rear disguised as refugees.

US units faced many difficulties in movement due to refugees, but the serious dilemma were North Korean soldiers hiding amongst the crowd in disguise and attacking US logistical vehicles and rear end units when a sufficient number of them were able to gather.

KATUSAs began participating in real combat action during the Landing Operations at Incheon. According to US data, the number of KATUSAs during the time was 18,944. KATUSAs were placed in the US Marine 5th Regiment, the US 7th Infantry Division, and in the support units of the Landing Operations at Incheon. During the Korean War, a

total of 43,660 KATUSAs fought together with US soldiers carrying out diverse missions to include riflemen, transportation and logistics, guard, communication and more.

Although KATUSAs, who are currently around 4,800, make up only 1/8 of the USFK, they are playing great roles and functions to both the US and ROK. Some are squad leaders with US soldiers under their command and some have completed the EUSA Non-Commissioned Officers Academy with excellent grades, which is famous for its strictness. Therefore, the KATUSA, a connecting link for ROK and US soldiers, contributes immensely to maintaining the strong ROK-US combined forces operational posture.

Qualifications and Status

Qualifications: highschool graduate, physical grade of level 3 and above, TOEIC score of 600 and above or TEPS score of 550 and above, no history of evading enlistment or enlistment tests. First recruitment(around September) is done by a computer draw at the Army Consolidated Administrative School. Second and final recruitment(around November) is done excluding those who did not pass their social background test. Actual enlistment starts the following year. When selected as KATUSA soldiers, the recruits are trained at ROK Army training camps and then receive adjustment education at the KATUSA Training Academy within the EUSA Non-Commissioned Officers Academy located in Uijeongbu. Service time is the same as ROK Amy soldiers.

6 "Front-line Partnership"

- A Legacy of Bonds -

On August 31, 1950, the KPA launched a large-scale offensive against the UN forces who were defending the 'Nakdong River defense line.' The situation on September 2 was discouraging with all available men, including communication, engineering, and maintenance soldiers, fighting defend its position against the KPA.

Late that afternoon, I was given an order by LTC M. C. Holden to deliver a message to the 9th, 23rd, and 38th Regiment, no matter how difficult the circumstances. The message was written in person by MG Laurence B. Keiser, the 2nd Infantry Division Commander, and stated, "For the honor of the Division and Country, every man shall hold his position to the last on the ground he now occupies." I successfully completed my duty and the 2nd Division's defense line was maintained. Soon after, we joined the other UN forces, who were attacking the KPA and driving them back north of the Nakdong River defense line.

" ellipsis "

Bob! Since you are going to South Korea to command the 2nd Division, I would like to give you this message, which I have been treasuring in my wallet for the past 30 some years. I believe this message represents a very important part of the history of the 2nd Division, and with this message present at the Command HQs, I am sure you will be able to recollect how special and excellent the 2nd Division truly is. I am very proud of you!

July 2002
From your father

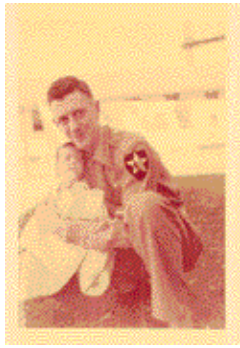
Major General John R. Wood, who assumed command of the 2nd Division on July 19, 2002, shared this letter, written by General Wood's father, with his Korean friends during a visit to a ROK military unit recently. The letter depicts the tension filled combat situation that the 2nd Division faced during the Nakdong River battle in late August and early September of 1950, and conveys a father's encouragement and the proud feelings towards a son who is assuming the position of Commander of the division that he fought with long ago during the Korean War.

General Wood's father, William Wood, graduated from West Point in 1945, and participated in the Korean War as an operation officer of the 2nd Division from 1950 to June 1951 when the war was at its peak, fighting in battles such as the Nakdong River battle, the march towards Aprok River in November 1950, and the 1.4 retreat.

In 1963, he returned to South Korea as a battalion commander in the 1st Cavalry Division. He retired from the service in 1973 and is currently living in Alexandria, Virginia.

General Wood, following in his father's footsteps, graduated from West Point and was

commissioned to 2nd Lieutenant in 1972. He served in Korea as a 2nd Division artillery officer in 1978, and after serving in key positions in the U.S. and in Germany as battalion commander in the 18th Airborne Corps and brigade commander in the 24th Infantry Division, he returned to Korea in July 2002, 24 years since his first tour of duty in Korea, as the Commander of the U.S. 2nd Division.



Young Gen. Wood with his Father at Fort Lewis Washington

During his speech at the change of command ceremony, General Wood introduced his father's participation in the Korean War and emphasized that "at the battle grounds of the past, U.S. and ROK soldiers fought as a team and won as a team. In the future, while focusing on tough exercises and training for assured combat readiness, I will do my best to maintain the close friendship between our two countries."

General Wood, who is maintaining "a legacy of bonds" in this land that his father fought to preserve 50 years ago, will be remembered, together with his father, as a symbol of the solid ROK-US Armed Forces "Front-line Partnership."

7 " WE GO TOGETHER "

By General **Leon J. LaPorte** Commander, CFC

This year is a monumental mark in time for the Republic of Korea-United States Forces Korea Alliance. For over fifty years, our powerful Alliance has remained steadfast in its commitment to ensuring peace and stability on the peninsula. Today, Republic of Korea and United States service members stand shoulder-to-shoulder in defense of the democratic ideals that we hold dear. It is a relationship that was cemented in blood during the Korean War and continues to unite us today; and I can think of no better motto to express the spirit of our alliance than "Katchi Kapshida" - "We Go Together."

The origins of this motto trace back to the Korean War, when GEN Paik, Sun-yup, bravely led his Division on a charge to protect the American flank. On the day of the attack, GEN Paik uttered two simple words to his U.S. Advisor, "Katchi Kapshida." It was a phrase that exemplified GEN Paik's sincere commitment to our alliance during the war, and it is a phrase that remains the cornerstone of our alliance today.

"Kachi Kapshida," we go together...because together is better! During the Korean War, Americans and South Koreans fought a common foe that threatened the sanctity of democracy on this land. These service members braved the elements of weather, disease and war...they fought and died together in trenches, foxholes and prison camps. They died so freedom could live. And live it does; it thrives in every home, on every street corner and in every business across this land. Today this great nation is the epitome of hard-earned success. Democracy has allowed the standard of living to inch up every year since the communist forces were repelled. Today, through struggle, sacrifice, and determination, South Korea has emerged with a highly successful global economy and its freedom is the envy of this region and the world. Yet its continued success is dependent upon our teamwork and commitment to the alliance.

The Republic of Korea-United States Alliance exists under a constant and unpredictable threat. However, we are prepared to make the same sacrifices as did those who tread before us--at a moment's notice. This is our commitment because freedom will always rule this land.

We know today that the Republic of Korea was and is worth fighting for.

Freedom is not free but our Alliance has proven to the world that we can achieve anything by working together for democracy's triumph. Together we have deterred aggression and maintained the peace on the peninsula for over fifty years and we will continue to do so for as long the threat exists - and "Katchi Kapshida" shall forever remain our rallying call.

Revised Edition

ROK-US Alliance and USFK

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